JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

1

SMOKIN' PARADE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

click.

clack.

—numerous killin[illegible] dismemberments. Two in Tokyo alone.

"Is there more than one killer?"

PAPER: ANOTHER KILLING

"The weapon used in the slayings— is still unknown."

Bizarre animal costume heads have been found at the scenes.

GOSHA (SPLORT)

Eyewitness accounts of the perpetrator vary—For example:

click

"Black."

"A group of armed people in suits."

"A haze of blood."

"The sound of something winding."

clack

"Grotesque."

"Black monsters."

...SORRY.

MEGI (KRRK)

PAKI (SNAP)

BAKI (CRACK)

BAKI

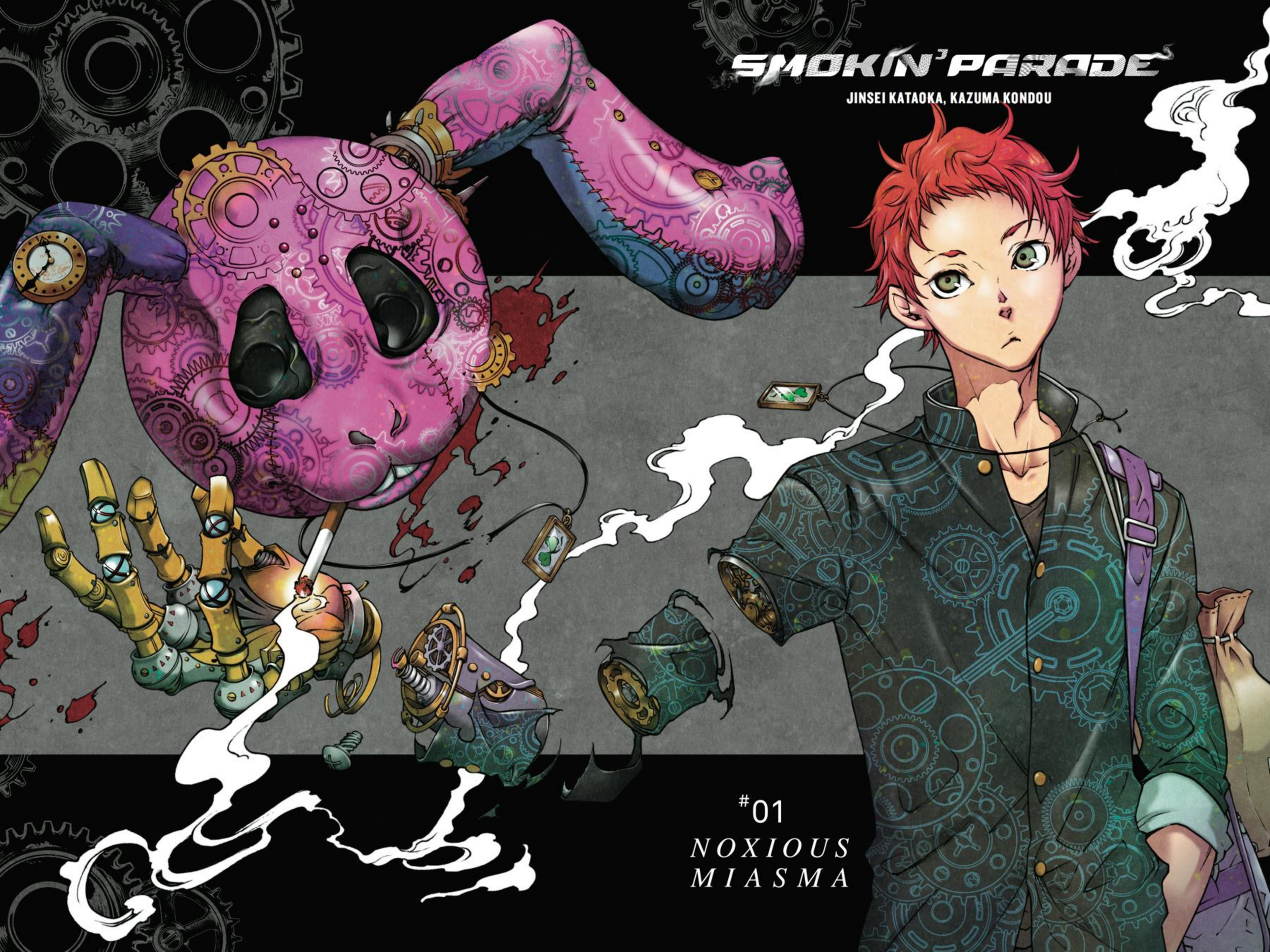
Slack

...BUT WE JACKALOPES LOVE OURSELVES A HAPPY ENDING.

THE END

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU



#01

NOXIOUS MIASMA

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

CONTENTS

001 #01
Noxious Miasma

077 #02
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Cheap Thrills

HFF!

HAAH!

—IT WAS MY FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

IT WAS AS IF...

...THE WORLD DIED THAT DAY.

HAAH.

TON (TNK)

SIGN: DRIVE SAFELY

!?

KYAAA!

HUH? WHAT? A JUMP-ER?

SOME-ONE FELL ON US!?

HEY... WHAT THE HELL?

DO (THUD)

BITAAN (WHACK)

GAN (KONK)

BITA (SMACK)

...HEY, YOU.

KIKI (SCREECH)

YOU DROP THIS?

CAN: DRY BEER

YOU KNOW... IN THE KAKUJOU HOUSE, WE HAVE A WHOLE BUNCH OF FAMILY RULES.

OHH.

...SO IT REALLY IS TRASH.

...DUDE, THAT'S GARBAGE!!

WHAA!? THAT'S WHY!?

FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE RULE NUMBER 119—

SUTA (THMP)

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)

GO (FWOOSH)

"DISPOSE OF TRASH PROPERLY, OR IT'LL COME RIGHT BACK TO YOU."

!!

PITA (STOP)

OH!

YOU, REDHEAD, ARE YOU CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN!?

STOP RIGHT THERE!!

PIPII (FWEEET)

?

HE SAID HE WASN'T GOING TO MOVE, SO I JUST MADE SURE HE COULD JUSTIFY STAYING THERE...

JUST THE OTHER DAY, YOU SPRAINED THE LEG OF A YAKUZA WHO WAS SITTING IN THE HANDICAPPED SEATS, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU'RE THE PROB-LEM!

WANT SOME HELP?

IS THERE A PROBLEM, OFFICER?

ONE OF MY FAMILY RULES IS THAT YOU ONLY DO WHAT ANY NORMAL PERSON WOULD DO.

...THOUGH I AM THE ONE WHO MADE ALL THE RULES.

YOU DID!?

WELL, THAT'S AWFULLY CONVENIENT, NOW, ISN'T IT...?

GO (WHOOSH)

!

GYA

GYA (SQUEAL)

LIKE I WOULD REALLY SHOOT THEM, BRAT.

...OH, WELL, THAT'S A *TOP-PRIORITY EMERGENCY VEHICLE.*

SHOULDN'T YOU SHOOT THEM? AS A DECENT PERSON?

WHOA... THAT'S DANGER-OUS.

IT BELONGS TO AMENOTORI, THE HUMAN TRANSPLANT COMPANY.

Y'KNOW, THE REVOLUTIONARY MEDICAL COMPANY THAT'S MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ANY BODY PART TO BE TRANS-PLANTED.

...OHH.

THEY HELPED MY LITTLE SISTER.

SIGN: GENERAL HOSPITAL

R

...LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S JUST FINE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL...

THE TRANSPLANTS HAVE PERFECTLY ASSIMILATED TO YOUR BONES AND NERVES.

...MIRAI KAKUJOU-SAN?

GREAT!

IT'S REALLY FUN HAVING TWO LEGS, ISN'T IT?

HAHAHAAA!

I CAN WALK! I CAN RUN!

SUDDENLY, I'M A LOT TALLER. I CAN EVEN SEE THE *WHORLS* ON PEOPLE'S HEADS!

YOU JUST WANNA POKE AT THOSE WHORLS, DON'T YOU!?

YES!

I ESPECIALLY LIKE BEING ABLE TO COOK ALL BY MYSELF NOW!

GASA (RUSTLE)

I EVEN MADE YOU A SWISS ROLL!

FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO'VE BEEN CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR ALL THEIR LIVES IT CAN TAKE SOME TIME TO GET USED TO THINGS.

HA HA.

IT'S ONLY BEEN TEN DAYS SINCE YOUR SURGERY.

R

L

...OH.

I'M HAVING SOME FRIENDS OVER TODAY, AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE ANOTHER CAKE.

CHARA (JANGLE)

AH HA HA.

TEE HEE!

WHOA...

YOU DID QUITE A... WONDERFUL JOB ROLLING IT.

TO-DAY...

SFX: GURURURURURU (GURRRRGLE)

...MAYBE I SHOULD GO GET ONE OF THOSE "TEN-PERSON CHALLENGE" BOWLS TO EAT BEFORE I HEAD TO WORK.

THOUGH THEY DID BAN ME FROM THE RESTAURANT THE OTHER DAY...

GH!

KUN (SNIFF)

?

THAT'S A WEIRD SMELL...

IRON?

FISH?

GURURU

...OH WELL.

...IS MY BIG BROTHER'S BIRTHDAY!

SIGN: MIDORI PARK

click.

ISN'T THERE ...

clack!

...AHH...

SOOOO BORED.

...ANYTHING TO KILL?

KAKUJOU

DOCHAAAA (SPLURCH)

BOCHAAN (THUNK)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MIRAI'S REALLY FIRED UP FOR THIS, ISN'T SHE?

SHE'S BEEN WAY TOO PERKY SINCE HER SURGERY.

TRANSPLANT SURGERIES THESE DAYS ARE PRETTY AWESOME, AREN'T THEY?

THERE WAS EVEN THAT ONE SOCCER PLAYER WHO GOT IN AN ACCIDENT, HAD SURGERY, AND PLAYED IN A GAME LATER THAT DAY.

HRAA AH!

GASHAN (CRASH)

SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS UP WITH THAT...?

NEWS

Amenotori's patented surgical techniques offer infinite possibilities.

...WE'RE DONE DECO-RATING. YOU WANT SOME HELP?

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE A BIT LATE FOR THAT.

NO WAY!

I'M GONNA COOK EVERY-THING ALL BY MYSELF!

THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF DOING!

...HE DOESN'T HAVE TO PUSH MY WHEELCHAIR AROUND ANYMORE.

AND I CAN MAKE HIM DELICIOUS FOOD WITHOUT HIM HAVING TO SET THE CUTTING BOARD AT A HEIGHT I CAN REACH!

THIS IS ALL FOR MY BELOVED BIG BROTHER.

I SHOULD GET A CLUE? THAT'S NOT ONE OF THE FAMILY RULES.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME WASH-ING MY SISTER'S UNDER-WEAR?

*THEIR FIRST MEETING

.....

YEAH, HE'S NOT A BAD GUY, BUT... BUT...

ONII-CHAN IS SUPER COOL!

YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS LITTLE...

...I'M BACK!

WHATCHA DRAWING, MIRAI?

...OH. WELL...

...THEY SAY FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS ARE LUCKY.

BOOK: BOTANICAL FIELD GUIDE

植物図鑑

BUT, YOU KNOW...

...I REALLY WANT TO SEE ONE OF THOSE.

...THERE ARE CLOVERS OUT THERE THAT ONLY HAVE TWO LEAVES TOO.

.....

HMM.

...AND THEN...

...HE WENT RIGHT BACK OUT.

...WHEN HE CAME BACK THREE DAYS LATER, HE WASN'T JUST A LITTLE MUDDY. HE WAS PRACTICALLY MADE OF MUD.

APPARENTLY HE WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE MOUNTAINS IN THE NEXT PREFECTURE OVER.

HERE.

I FOUND SOME TWO-LEAF CLOVERS.

...HUH?

ONE FOR YOU, AND ONE FOR ME.

IF WE PUT TWO CLOVERS WITH TWO LEAVES TOGETHER...

...THEN THAT SHOULD MAKE US LUCKY, RIGHT?

ALL FOR ME...

.....!

I'M SORRY, ONII-CHAN...

KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE NUMBER FOUR—

"YOU DON'T APOLOGIZE TO FAMILY."

RIGHT?

GON GTHUNK

BZZT!

OW!?

OH.

YEAH... THEN...

THANKS, ONII-CHAN!

...AND NOW...

...WE BOTH WEAR THOSE TWO-LEAF CLOVERS AS PENDANTS!

DISPLAY: DOORBELL

UGH, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TOLD US THAT STORY NOW!?

YOU'RE OBSESSED! OBSESSED! OBSESSED!

ピンポーン

PINPOON (DING-DONG)

?

GLICHAAA (GLOP)

JUST LOOK AT THIS.

WE KNEW THAT GETTING SURGERY WOULDN'T CHANGE WHAT A CLUMSY, BAD COOK YOU ARE.

WHAA!?

THAT'S SO MEEEEAN!

OH, THAT MUST BE THE PIZZA GUY.

HUH?

PATA (PATTER)

WHO IS IT!?

BAG: OVERSIZED TRASH

AH HA HA!

PIKI (POP)

...?

GACHA (KACHAK)

DAMN. I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR IT WITH THE CAKE...

...!?

PIKI

KO

MIRAI!?

GH!

!

PIKI

KO

AH!

!

AHH...

GACHA

MIRAI? DID YOU COOK SOME-THING WEIRD AGAIN?

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME BY TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS. I'M ONLY GONNA EAT TWELVE BITES, YOU KNOW!

STILL, I SMELLED THIS SOMEWHERE ELSE TODAY.

IT'S LIKE IRON OR FISH...

OH, THAT'S IT.

I'M BACK!

...WOO, WHAT REEKS?

GO
CTHUNK

...THAT'S THE SMELL OF BLOOD.

...DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?

THINGS LIKE YOU...

THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT MUSTN'T BE SUFFERED TO LIVE.

MONSTERS.

...OH.

THIS DREAM AGAIN...

—THE DREAM OF THE SMELL OF BLOOD—

...MN.

HAPPY ♡ B!!

SURPRISE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ONII-CHAN!

WHAT SORT OF IDIOT KNOCKS A PERSON OUT JUST TO SURPRISE THEM?

...WAIT.

!?

AND EVERY-THING REALLY HURTS...

ZUKI (THROB)

ZUKI

COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE DID SAY SHE WAS INVITING SOME FRIENDS.

HMM, WHO IS THAT? I CAN'T REALLY SEE.

OH!

I kinda ran out of meat...

...so I used some of *yours* too!


...HUH?

WHERE...

...ARE THEY?

HOT

...!

WHAT THE...

?!

...HELL ...!?

MY LEG?

AH!

MY ARMS?

OW. BUR

AAH!

ZUGIGI

NN!

HOT

...WHA ...?

GH !?

ZUGIN (THROB)

MAYBE I READ THE COOKBOOK WRONG.

...BUT THEY'RE STILL BLEEDING...

OH? I BURNED THE PLACES WHERE I CUT...

PAKI

PAKIKIKI (SNAP)

PAKI

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MIRAI...?

MI...

PAKI (SNAP)

PAKIKI

!

GEBO (COUGH)

!!

HKH!

WHO THE HELL BUSTIN WITH RABBIT IN THIS CHEAP-ASS APARTMENT? ARE THEY MENTAL?

A MASK...A ROBBERY?

SHOULD COME U FAMILY RULE FOR SOME-THING LIKE THIS.

IS THIS GONNA TU OUT TO AL BE A DREA MAYBE IT'S ACTUALLY

WAIT... THERE'VE BEEN THOSE RUMORS LATELY...

BUT WAIT A MINUTE. MY ARMS AND LEG ARE GONE. HOW AM I STILL ALIVE?

WHAT IS THAT? WHAT IS THIS?

PIZZA

...THE MONSTER THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT ON THE NEWS?

...IS THIS...

PIZZA

GOHO

WHAT THE HELL? WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME...?

PI!

GEBO

DOKUN (BADUM)

FOOD...?

I DON'T WANNA BE FOOD...

I DON'T WANNA DIE...

GOFU

DOKUN

...OHH.

...MY ARMS AND LEG ARE...

DOKUN (BADUM)

CAKE: ONII-CHAN

FIFTEEN DIGITS IN ALL.

BOTH HANDS AND ONE FOOT.

YOU USED ***MY FINGERS AND TOES*** INSTEAD OF CANDLES?

But I just couldn't go without them!

It's my beloved onii-chan's birthday, after all!

Ah-ha-ha, I'm such a ditz! I totally forgot to get candles!

So I had to at least make you something nice to eat!

You were always working because we didn't have a mom or dad.

You didn't have any friends because you were always taking care of me.

I had to bring luck to us.

HUH? WHaa?

You lost your arms and leg, so now you can't hold a fork?

OH, but I used meat from Saki-chan, so now she can't eat anything...

...HUH?

?

NO.

WHAT IS IT?

...WHO THE HELL IS THIS?

I'm just so, so crazy happy!

AH Ha Ha Ha Ha!

PIKIKI (CRIK)

PAKI (SNAP)

Ever since I had that surgery on my legs...

...I've just felt so good! I can't even help myself!

Happy birtH-Day...

Dear...

...Dear... ♪

Happy birtHDay to You!♪

Happy birtHDay to You!♪

HUH?

...GUH!

ZAKU

ZAKU (STAB)

...Hn?

Hm?

GI

?

MEGI

MEGI (CRACK)

?

Dear...

GI (CREAK)

WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?

HUH?

HEY, HEY!

WHY'RE YOU CRYING?

BEEP BEEP

PICKING UP DEFINITE SIGNS OF A SPIDER TRANSFORMATION.

POINT 666.

DEPLOY-ING THE SOUND ABSORP-TION SHIELD.

VUIN (WHIR)

ROGER.

BO (FWOOSH)

Click

BAGIN (CLACK)

"KILL YOUR HEART, THEN KILL THEM."

"BLOW AWAY THE SMOKE OF BLOOD WITH NINETY-SEVEN-DEGREE STEAM."

DOGA (BLAM)

!?

GA

CLICK

"LET THE UNRUSTING GEARS TURN."

Click

A GANG?

THE POLICE...?

...A GUN?



HELLO AND BYE-BYE, FUCKING SPIDER!

...BLACK DEMONS?

280 SECONDS OF SOUND ABSORP-TION LEFT...

WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE...

THEY ARE WEAPONS!?

NO...

THEY HAVE WEAPONS.

TIME FOR THE JACKALOPE PARADE!

DO (BLAM)

DON

OH, WHAT A CUTE LITTLE BUNNY RABBIT.

PAKI (SNAP)

BYU (FWOOSH)

I'LL GIVE YOU A PRETTY RED RIBBON.

OH!

YOU'LL BECOME AN ADULT WHO ONLY GETS TURNED ON BY BLOOD AND GUNS, JUST LIKE AKUTA.

...I CAN ADD TO THE PILE OF BODIES, YOU KNOW.

MATSUGO-CHAN, YOU'RE STILL UNDERAGE. DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF.

YOU'RE SO KIND, BIG SIS MIDARI...

MARRY ME!♡

GOBO (COUGH)

...EY.

...OP... IT.

GAH

!?

...THAT ONE'S STILL ALIVE?

HE'S A TOUGH ONE.

HUH?

A SURVIVOR !?

MY SIS-TER ...!

DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH

BEGI (CREAK)

BUCHI (POP)

BUCHI

...OHH?

F-

F
O
O
O
D.

...YOUR SISTER'S TRYING TO KILL YOU, YOU KNOW.

SHE'S GOT QUITE THE FUNNY FACE THERE, HUH?

DON'T WORRY, RED.

YOUR SISTER'S NOTHING BUT A PLAIN OLD MONSTER NOW.

IT'S OKAY IF AN ORDINARY HUMAN CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

SPIDERS.

THEIR HEADS TURN INTO THOSE CREEPY ANIMAL HEADS, AND IN THE END...

...THEY TURN INTO FREAKS DRIVEN BY RAW DESIRE.

BECAUSE OF THE TRANSPLANT, THE BRAIN IS TAKEN OVER...

...AND THE INTERNAL LIMITERS ON BOTH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL POWER ARE TAKEN DOWN.

THAT'S WHAT WE CALL THEM.

IT HAPPENS TO ABOUT 0.2% OF AMENOTORI'S TRANSPLANT PATIENTS.

BUJI (SNAP)

BUCHI (POP)

...M=

MEAT!

Meat!

onii-chan's ...

Meat!

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE THEM...

...ONCE THE MONSTERS SHOW UP, IT'S OUR TURN.

WE'RE THE JACKALOPES. OUR JOB IS TO SLAUGHTER THE GUYS WITH THE MESSED-UP HEADS.

BU (SHLRK)

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE THE GOOD MONSTERS.

DO

DO (BLAM)

...IS ABSO-LUTE DEATH !!

DO

DO

DO

DO

COM-PLETE DE-STRUC-TION!!

DOSA (THUD)

YOU'RE JUST A *HUMAN.*

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WATCH THE SPIDER'S LAST MOMENTS.

Oh, it's all right.

THE RESCUE CALLED IN EARLIER IS ALMOST TO YOU.

DID YOU JUST SAY "FAT-ASS," MIDARI-SAN?

What is it, Desaki (you fat-ass)?

Hm?

BEEP

...IT'S ALL OVER.

...REALLY ARE MONSTERS, AREN'T YOU?

...YOU KILLED...

...MY SISTER.

SMOKING IN THE HOUSE IS TOTALLY AGAINST THE FAMILY RULES.

BUTSU

BUTSU (MUTTER)

HUH? THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!?

YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR...

BUTSU

YOU DIDN'T TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES.

...OH, THESE PROSTHETICS ARE SPECIALLY MADE—

I NEVER ASKED FOR ANY HELP!

YOU DIDN'T SAY YOU DIDN'T WANT HELP EITHER.

GUESS IT'S JUST YOUR BAD LUCK THAT YOU WERE SPARED.

YOU'RE MADE OF TOUGH STUFF, AND A TOUGH TALKER TO MATCH, EH, KID?

JAKON CKA-CHUNK

YOU'RE A STUB-BORN ONE.

ZURU (DRAG)

!


DON CELAMO
12

DO (THUD)

...DAMN...

...IT.

...YOU BAS-TARD...

DON'T SHOOT THROUGH ME...

SHIELDING A SPIDER...

...WH—

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, KID...?

EVEN THOUGH SHE KILLED HER OWN FRIENDS.

—EVEN SO...

SHE WAS

MIRAI KAKU-JOU!

EVEN THOUGH SHE CUT OFF MY ARMS AND LEG.

LIKE I COULD CALL MYSELF HUMAN IF I DIDN'T STAND UP FOR MY OWN FAMILY!?

THAT'S ONE OF OUR FAMILY RULES. REMEMBER THAT!

YOU DAMN MONSTERS!

DOSA
(THUD)

PAKI

PAKI

PAKIN (CRICK)

KI

.....

NO WAY.

PAKI

BORO

...I...

BORO (CRUMBLE)

...ONII... CHAN.

...I'M... SOR...

...RY...

.....

I'M GONNA SMACK YOU.

...KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE NUMBER FOUR.

AH...

BORO (CRUMBLE)

HA...

...HA HA.

BORO

YEAH.

THANK...

...Y...

GOTON (THUD)

YOU.

—ON MY FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY—

—THE WORLD DIED.



AFTER ALL, MY WHOLE WORLD DIED.



MY FAMILY DIED.



AND WHAT'S MORE...

...I'M GONNA DIE SOON MYSELF.

BO (FWOOSH)

HA!

.....

...HEY, JUST NOW...

...THE SPIDER... HUH!?

WHA?

YOUR HEAD'S PRETTY ROTTEN.

ZA (STEP)

IT'S NOT JUST YOUR LUCK THAT'S BAD.

YOU'RE SMOKIN' COOL, RED.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

!

...KAKU...

...JOU...

click!

PTOO!

YOUKOU KAKUJOU.

CLICK

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN'

THE WORLD IS DEAD,

THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

PARADE

THAT'S ME. I'M HAVING A NIGHT-MARE.

YOUKOU KAKUJOU (15).

#02

"THE JACKALOPES."

AND I, THE IDIOT, PROTECTED MY FORMER SISTER, AND— DEAD END.

THOSE BLACK MECHANICAL DEMONS INVADED MY HOUSE.

THE REASON? TO DEFEAT A FREAKISH MONSTER THEY CALL A "SPIDER" THAT HAD FORMERLY BEEN MY SISTER.

#02
MASKED SYMPATHY

...OR IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN, BUT— WHADDAYA KNOW— I'M STILL ALIVE.

WHY? BECAUSE I'M BEING TREATED AT THE JACKALOPES' BASE.

BECAUSE THE SMOKIN' COOL JACKALOPES TOOK ME HOME WITH THEM.

...?

AND THE GEARS OF FATE HAVE STARTED TO TURN...

...HOLD IT, YOU.

DON'T JUST GO AROUND NARRATING MY DREAMS.

GEHO (COUGH)

OWW...

...?

GU (STRAIN)

OH, YOU AWAKE, RED?

...WAIT, NO, YOUKOU.

I'M NOT INTO TYING PEOPLE UP.

JUST LOOK.

REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED, AIRHEAD.

ZURU (SLIP)

WHY CAN'T I MOVE...?

HEY, DO YOU HAVE ME TIED UP?

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...?

AND WHY IS THE GUY FROM MY DREAM ACTUALLY HERE...?

OH...

...A DREAM ...

...IT WASN'T ...

お兄ちゃんへ

...CONGRATULATIONS ON SURVIVING HELL.

DINER

...AND WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LIVING HELL.

GASHAN (CLATTER)

HE'S AWAKE!? HIM!?

A FULL TWO MONTHS' WORTH OF SEDATIVES WORE OFF IN JUST TEN DAYS!?

BUT I WANTED TO RUN TESTS ON HIM, FROM THE HAIR ON HIS HEAD ALL THE WAY DOWN TO HIS PRIVATES!

IF IT WERE ME...

...I WOULDA FORCED MYSELF AWAKE IN THREE DAYS.

MAYBE HE REALIZED HOW DANGER-OUS THE PERVERT DOCTOR WAS?

...WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO COMPETE WITH HIM, AKUTA!?

JUST WHOSE FAULT IS IT THAT WE BROUGHT HIM BACK HERE WITH US ANYWAY?

MILK

...PAR-FAAAIT!?

GUCHA (SMOOSH)

HMPH!

...BY THE WAY, I WOULD HAVE WOKEN UP IN JUST A DAY.

TAKE SOME RESPON-SIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS.

COME ON. SAVE THAT ENERGY FOR THE SPIDERS.

BASA (RUSTLE)

LOOK.

HERE'S WHAT THE *ANALOG NEWS* HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE INCIDENT WITH THE RED-HEADED KID.

HUUM?

THAT'S JUST A WASTE OF SEDATIVES!

DON'T OVERCOME MY MEDICAL TECHNIQUES WITH WILL-POWER!

キグルミ頭事件

人体の一家殺人？

"A GANG OF MONSTERS KILLED AN ENTIRE HOUSE OF PEOPLE."

BUT WE'RE THE ONES WHO KILLED THE SPIDER!

HEADLINES: ANIMAL HEAD KILLINGS, A DAYTIME FAMILY SLAUGHTER?

YA! HA!

JIJI (SIZZLE)

GOOD, GOOD.

DON (BLAM)

WAH?

BASHA (KA-CHAK)

WE ARE "MONSTERS," AFTER ALL, AREN'T WE?

CUT THE CRAP.

...YOU DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, DO YOU...?

...
AKUTA
...

...WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON ***DOING WITH*** THAT RED-HEADED KID?

DINER

...I JUST TOOK A LIKING TO HIM.

ZARA (TUMBLE)

DID YOU DROP A NORMAL SET OF ARMS AND LEGS?

OR WAS IT THESE GOLDEN ONES?

UM, YOUKOU KAKUJOU-KUN.

Hum...

?

OH, I'M THE DOCTOR-CUM-TECHNICIAN FOR THE JACKALOPES! ☆

BY THE WAY, I'M A GENIUS! ☆

...

And a pervert.

THAT'S THE HELPER ROBOT I MADE OUT OF SCRAP METAL.☆

SO...

...THIS IS A SUPER-LIGHT LIMB MADE FROM SYNTHETICS AND PLASTIC.

BUT THERE'S A TWO- TO FOUR-PERCENT ERROR IN THE NERVE CONNECTIONS.

THIS IS A VINTAGE DESIGN. YOU CAN ADD ON UP TO TWENTY FINGERS.

SO IT'S REALLY POPULAR WITH MECHANICS, ESPECIALLY IN SILVER.

THIS COMES LOADED WITH THIRTY DIFFERENT FLORAL SCENTS AND AMMONIA FOR DRIVING OFF GROPERS.

IT'S A SUPER POPULAR MODEL WITH YOUNG WOMEN.

...HUH.

OH... YOU DON'T LIKE ANY OF THEM?

ZARA (TUMBLE)

AND I HAVE ALL SORTS OF ARTIFICIAL HEARTS TOO!

ATHLETE TYPES, SELF-DECONTAM-INATING DETOX TYPES.

GPS AND TRACKER-JAMMING TYPES FOR CRIMINAL USE!

THIS ONE HAS AN EROTIC MODE BUILT INTO IT. IT'S THE PERFECT MODEL FOR LOSING YOUR VIRGINITY!

Your true colors are showing, Doc.

18+

TAG: 18+

.....!

...BUT YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN THE ***RISKS*** INHERENT IN SPECIALIZED ORGANIC ARTIFICIAL LIMBS LIKE THE ONES FROM AMENOTORI, HAVEN'T YOU?

THOUGH IF YOU DO TURN INTO A SPIDER, WE'LL DO YOU THE FAVOR OF KILLING YOU.

OH!

OR...

...WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE GEARS, THE SPECIAL BATTLE-CAPABLE LIMBS, LIKE AKUTA AND THE OTHERS HAVE?

GON (THUNK)

BWA!

That's confi-dential!

Doc, you're saying too much!

...SO BASI-CALLY...

...I HAVE TO DECIDE *WHAT I WANT TO DO FROM NOW ON?*

THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

...GOT YOU MIXED UP IN OUR ACTIVITIES. THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS FIX YOU BACK UP AGAIN.

WE JACKALOPES, AS AN ANTI-SPIDER ORGANIZATION...

LOSING EVERYTHING MEANS THAT YOU'RE COMPLETELY FREE NOW.

AND BEING FREE MEANS A NEVER-ENDING BALL OF HURT.

NIKO (SMILE)

♪

NOW THAT BOTH MY ARMS, A LEG, MY HEART, MY HOME, MY ONLY FAMILY, AND THE THE ENTIRE WORLD AS I KNEW IT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED?

SO...

...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

GYUU (RRRR)

!?

GYURURURURURURURURU (GURGLE)

DOOON (DUN-DUN)

"EAT FIRST."

...KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE NUMBER TEN—

GYUGORURU

I JUST DON'T GET KIDS THESE DAYS...

.....

OKAY.

OKAY...

NOW WHAT?

POLICE

JUST ONE SHOT LEFT?

WHAT A WASTE OF BULLETS!

SHIT.

GASHA (KA-CHAK)

GEEZ!

GON (THNK)

NU (LOOM)

POST BOX

...BUT I'VE ONLY HAD TWO BEERS.

IT'D BE REALLY GREAT IF I WAS JUST SEEING THINGS.

ZUSHIN (THUD)

HA HA HA

...GET KILLED, OR KILL MYSELF FIRST.

EITHER WAY, IT WAS A REALLY LAME LIFE.

click.

BEEP

HUH!?

HOW DOES HE EVEN LIVE WITH THAT...?

SIGN: LOOK OUT FOR DEER

HEY, YOU KNOW THE COMPRESSION RATIO OF AKUTA'S METAL GEARS?

HE SAID IT'S OVER SIXTY-SIX POUNDS!

AKUTA'S GEARS COULD'VE TAKEN CARE OF THIS IN ONE SHOT.

...Yeah, some-how.

DONE TAKING CARE OF THE SPIDERS?

06

GI
(CREAK)

.....

...WELL, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

GASHOON (CLANK)

I REALLY DON'T OWE YOU ANY-THING?

OF COURSE NOT. ARE YOU SURE...YOU'RE REALLY ALL RIGHT WITH THOSE BARELY-FUNCTIONAL SCRAP LIMBS?

?

HUH?

THIS ONE?

YOU HAVE EXTRAS, DON'T YOU? LIKE THAT WEIRD ROCKET PUNCH ONE...?

WHAT ABOUT THE GEARS?

WHAA!?

...WHAT THE HELL? LAME!!

BUSHUU (SPLORT)

BOTTLE: CONDENSED MILK

THIS FINICKY ONE THAT NOT EVEN YOU COULD HANDLE?

IT'S A TOP-FUNCTIONING PIECE OF UNUSABLE GARBAGE.

PON (THUNK)

Oh!

BUT REALLY, WHY SHOULD I PUT THAT ON HIM...?

IT'LL PROBABLY BE ABOUT TEN YEARS BEFORE I CAN DO ANYTHING WITH IT...

DOGOO (THWACK)

BWA!

Is that why you kept coming to check up on him...?

Akutacchi, do you want this kid to join the Jackalopes?

...WE DID KILL YOUR SISTER.

YOU HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH REASON TO HATE US. YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ONE OF US... WOULD YOU?

WELL...

...WAS SMILING.

HUH!? THEN THAT MEANS ...?

...BUT MIRAI...

WELL, I DO TAKE ISSUE WITH YOU WEARING SHOES IN MY HOUSE...

HM? I DON'T HATE YOU GUYS.

.....

...BESIDES, I JUST DON'T LIKE YOU IN PARTICULAR.

...BUT I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED JOINING...

...THIS JACKA-WHATSIT THING OF YOURS.

HA!

OKAY.

GAN (THUNK)

YOU'RE NOT PROPER HUMANS.

...FAREWELL, LAME BOY.

INSTEAD OF SUCH A DAMN LAME LIFE...

...I...


HMM...
I DO THINK HE'S A WEIRD ONE THOUGH.
I JUST CAN'T GET A READ ON HIM.
...WHAT...
...DID YOU LIKE ABOUT HIM?


BII (BEEP)
!
ALIKE? ...YOU AND HIM?
BUT THAT'S JUST...


...WE'RE A LOT ALIKE.
WELL, HE'S EITHER ALL IN OR ALL OUT.
HOW EASY HE IS TO FIGURE OUT, I GUESS?
HOW SO!?


Emergency!! All personnel, equip your communica-tors!
A Spider is approach-ing!!
BEEP
BEEP

The Spider has taken down one of our irregular forces.

BEEP

It's invaded the slum about a mile away!

All Jackalopes, arm your Gears!!

?

Coward!

哎喲!
(OW!)

逃跑!
(RUN!)

DOKYA
(SMASH)

!?

WHAT THE!?

THAT SPIDER...

HFF! DAM-MIT...

WE'RE BEING TAILED...

...WAS A *TWIN*! I LOOKED IT UP, AND...

HAFF!

...THEY USED TO BE SIAMESE TWI—

—NS.

EEEEEK!

A...

A MON-STER...!

THAT'S ONE OF THOSE SPIDERS...

HEY, CALL THE COPS—

IF WE COULD COUNT ON THEM TO DO ANYTHING, WE WOULDN'T BE LIVING IN THE SLUMS, DUMBASS!

KIN (SHINK)

MROW!

MWRRR

LOOK OUT...!

DAMMIT, I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT...

GAGYAN (SLASH)

PI (FLIP)

OW...

THAT REALLY DID SOME DAMAGE ...!

...!

A CAT!

...UGH.

GAGO (THUNK)

OW!

GET LOST!!

ANOTHER MONSTER? DAMMIT...!

NOW THERE ARE BLACK DEMONS ...!?

!?

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THEIR ARMS AND LEGS...?

我想回家!

(I WANNA GO HOME!)

GET OUT OF HERE, YOU MON-STERS!

WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?

...HEY.

BESHA (SPLAT)

ARGH.

WHAT A FUCKING DUMP.

YOU'RE IN THE WAY.

JUST GO BACK TO YOUR PROPER HUMAN WORLD ALREADY, RED.

FOR ME...

...INSTEAD OF DYING LIKE A HUMAN...

...I CHOSE TO LET THE DAMNED MONSTER EAT MY ENTIRE ARM JUST TO GET OFF A SHOT.

...AND I WANTED TO LET LOOSE ANOTHER HUNDRED SHOTS...

BAKIN (CRACK)

...SO I JUST HAD TO BECOME EITHER A DEMON OR A MONSTER.

...AHH.

THIS OLD FART...

...REALLY DOES PISS ME OFF...

NO CLOSE-COMBAT SPECIALISTS WITH THEM, SO THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THEY COULD ACCIDENTALLY HIT THE CIVILIANS.

AND TOO MUCH ILLEGAL ELECTRIC WAVES GOING ON, SO I CAN'T ASSIST...

WHY ARE THEIR GEARS ONLY FUNCTIONING AT TWENTY PERCENT!?

HEEEY!

GACHAN (CRASH)

!?

GYA (SKREECH)

KACHI

KACHI (CLICK)

It's a thief–

FWA!?

GOIN (FWOOSH)

GA (THUNK)

HEY...!

COME BACK HERE, YOUNG MAN!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT...?

Huh?

...MONSTERS...

...WE'RE...

.....

KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE NUMBER SEVENTY-SIX—

WAAH...

BASHIN (FWOOSH)

KA WA!

...I'M BETTING ON THE BLACK DEMONS!

PULL IT TOGETHER!

RA AH

THEN ...

ALL RIGHT, I'M IN FOR THE CAT MONSTER!

YOU'RE INJURED, SO NO.

YOU'LL MESS UP YOUR OWN BODY.

HFF!

THOSE SPECTATORS ARE WAY TOO TOUGH!

CAN I SET MY GEARS AT FULL POWER?

"LYING PISSES ME OFF"!

CLICK!

SO PA-THETIC.

GAN (THUNK)

GON (THUD)!

!?

WAH!

GYA (SKREECH)

YOU CAN'T EVEN HIT A LITTLE CAT?

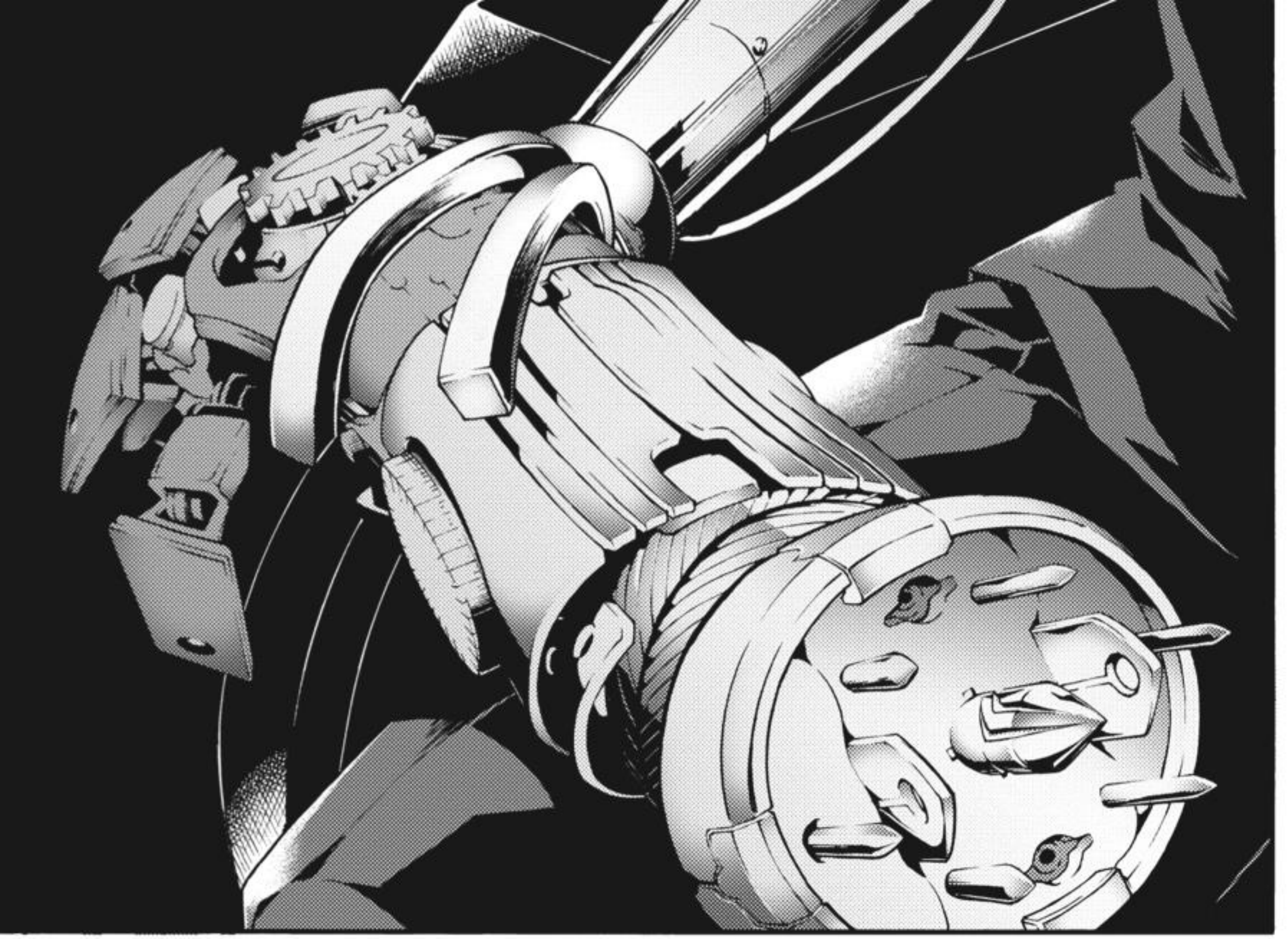
DON'T DO IT, YOUNG MAN!

There he...

BFF!

...!??

YOU... WHY DID YOU COME BACK...?





NGH...!

!?

BEKIN (CREAK)

BEGO (GRNCH)

BUCHI

RGH!

AAAAH!

WAAAH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

DO YOU WANT TO GET YOURSELF RIPPED APART!?

JUST HOW MASOCH-ISTIC CAN YOU BE!?

BUCHI (POP)

DO (THUD)

GUN (WHUMP)

BACHI (SNAP)

BAGIN (SNAP)

GIN (KSHINK)

.....!

...THEN THERE WOULD BE NO NEED—

AAA!A

BU (POP)

BOGO (CRACK)

BESIDES, IF YOU COULD JUST DO THAT...

A!

TAKE IT OFF BEFORE THE ENTIRE ORGANIZA-TION GETS KILLED!

YOUR NERVES HAVEN'T BEEN TUNED FOR IT! I HAVEN'T SHAPED YOUR MUSCLES! DON'T JUST PLUG IT IN LIKE THAT!

—FOR ME...

...DROPPED THE BALL!

.....

...YOU... GUYS...

WOULD A *MONSTER* PROTECT ME?

Click!

WOULD A *MONSTER* PROTECT OTHER PEOPLE AND GET COVERED IN GARBAGE FOR IT?

Click!

...I DON'T AGREE WITH WHAT YOU SAID!

BUT I DO AGREE WITH WHAT YOU DO!

SO...

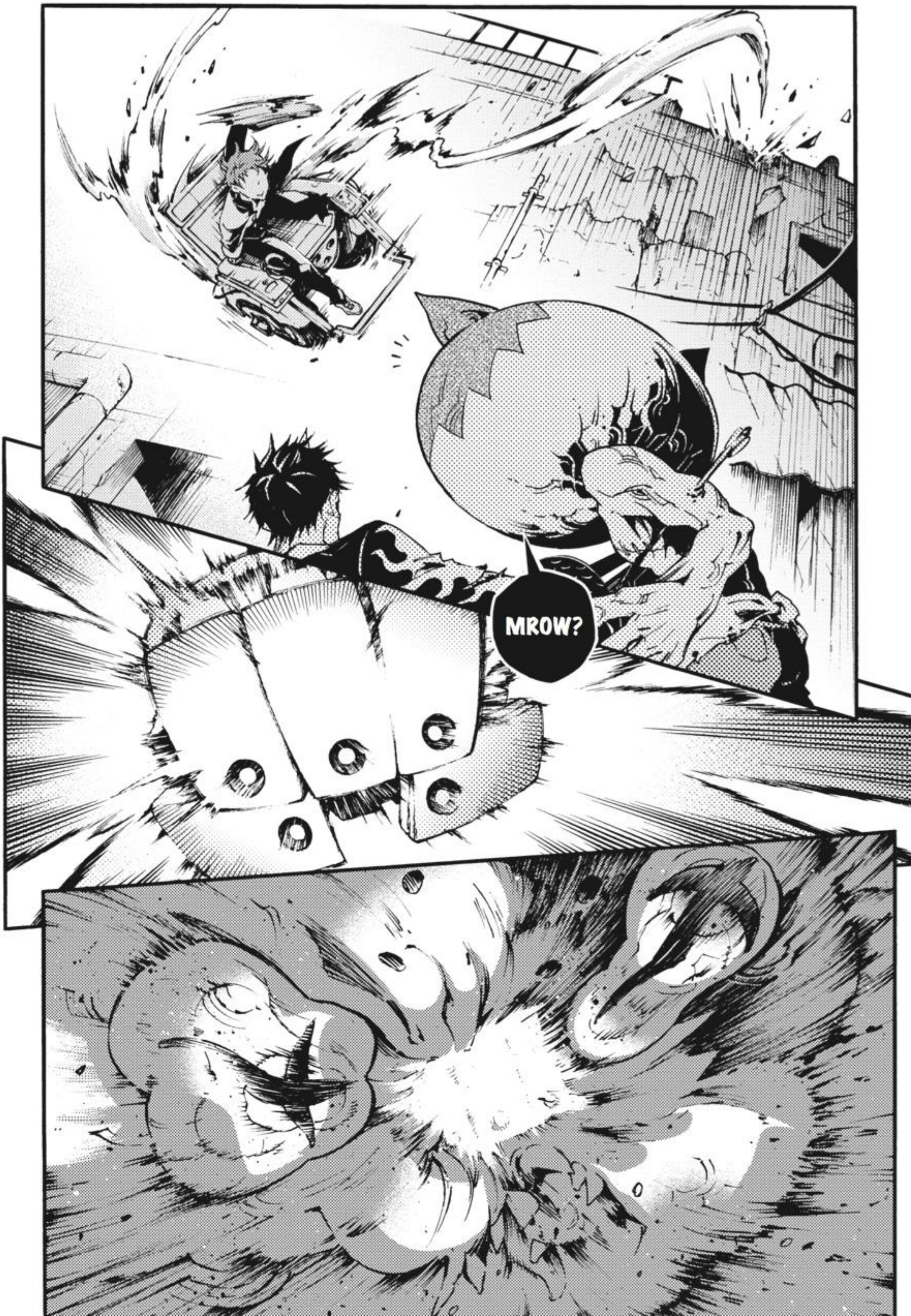
...I CHOOSE TO BECOME A HUMAN WITH THE POWER OF A MONSTER!

MAX

KACHI (CLICK)

GACHIN (CLACK)

BO (FWOOSH)


MROW?



BI (BEEP)

BI

DOOON (FWOOM)

!?

WHAT WAS THAT!?

EVERY-ONE OKAY?

EH!?!? I LOST THE SPIDER'S SIGNAL...

GARA (CLATTER)

...SO.

KOFF!

KOFF!

...YEAH.

EVERYTHING'S PRETTY MUCH FINE, EXCEPT FOR OUR EAR-DRUMS...

...WHO'S THE MONSTER?

...AND WHO'S THE HUMAN?

乾脂肉店

Gears!?

Huh!? Whose?

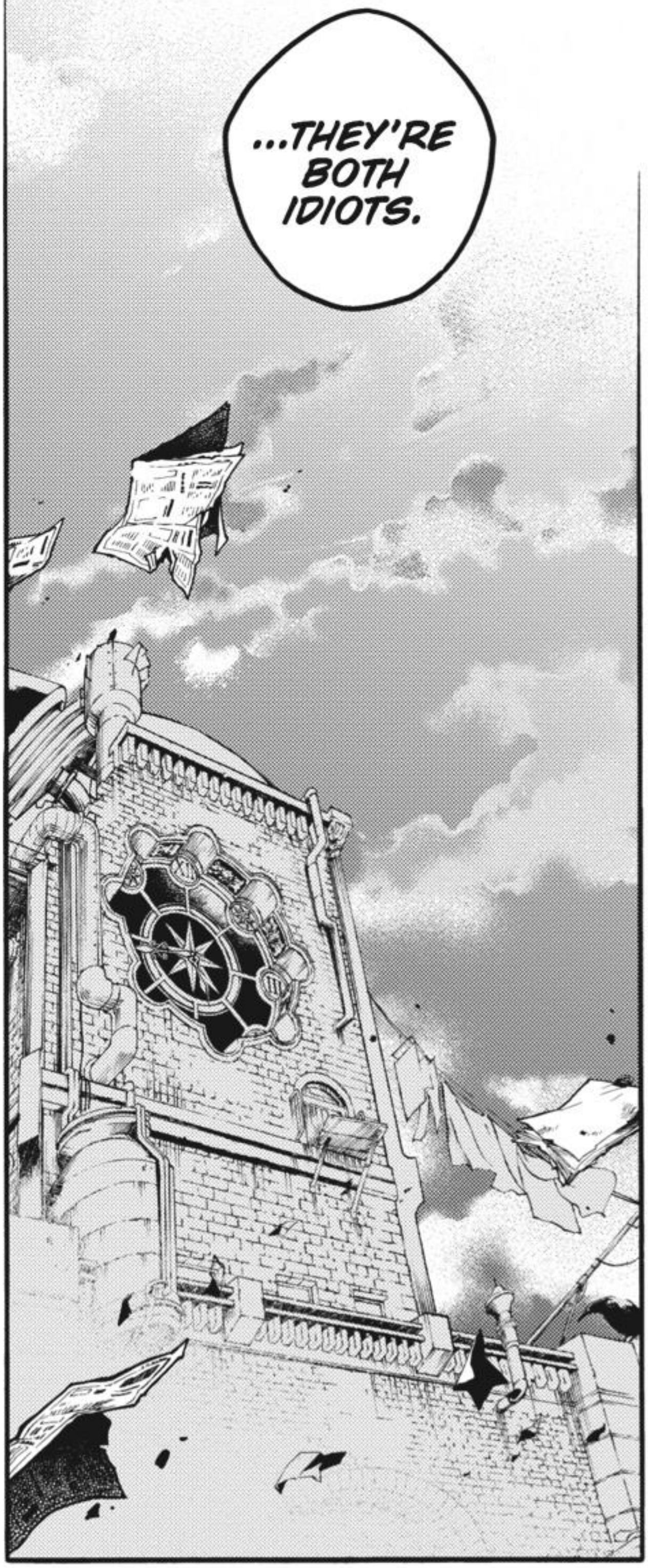
...OH.

THE *NEWEST* JACKA-LOPE.

!?

THEY ARE A LOT ALIKE.


Costume killi


...THEY'RE BOTH IDIOTS.

...me kin...

The body of Youkou Kakujou-san (15) has yet to be found. In addition, police report that the sister, stains from the Mirai Kakujou-san (14) but have been found, her whereabouts are still unknown.

Clack



THE WORLD IS DEAD,

THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU



THE WORLD IS DEAD,

THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU



THE WORLD IS DEAD,

THE PARADE WILL START.

#03

ORDINARY OCCUPATION

エンゼル友愛会
ANGEL & LOVE

BUILDING: ANGEL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

エンゼル友愛会
ANGEL & LOVE

PARA
(FLUTTER)

IT'S THE FATHER'S HAND OF BLESSING.

OOOO CRAAAAHD

OHH...! A GOLDEN FEATHER!

IT'S A MIRA-CLE!

YOU HAVE BEEN CLEANSED OF SIN.

THIS IS PROOF THAT THE ANGELS ARE WITH YOU.

WAAAA (CLAMOR)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, YARMIDER-SAMA!

OHH...

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THESE BELIEVERS?

A MERE FIFTY THOUSAND YEN IN TITHE FOR THE ANGELS!?

BASA (THUD)

PRIVATE

RRGH...

DOSA (THUD)

BUTSU (MUTTER)

BUTSU

THIS ISN'T EVEN ENOUGH TO PAY FOR THE BRAIN-WASHING DRUGS!

BI (YANK)

GOLD IS THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES ME FEEL BLESSED!

SURI (RUB)

SURI

AHH! ♥♥

I WANT TO BE BLESSED...

POTA (DRIP)

POTATA

WAH!

ZURU (SLIP)

BISHA (SPLASH)

HKK!

HAA!

JORORO (DRIBBLE)

HFF...

WHAT THE? IS THE ROOF LEAKING?

HFF!

HFF!

EEK!

MY STEAM COOKER'S SHORTED OUUUT!

BOSHUU (FSSHH)

HFF!

Marry me!♡

WHOA!

MY BRAND-NEW CORDOVAN BOOTS!

HAAH.

...HAAH.

I CAN'T DO THIS!

BOO!

BOO!

HEY, NEWBIE!

GET YOUR CLEANING ACT TOGETHER!

MY MELON SODA TASTES LIKE DISH-WATER!

GISHI (CREAK)

GI (CREAK)

GI

GI

WHO COULD ACTUALLY MOVE WITH THESE PIECE OF SHIT ARMS AND LEGS!?

THESE GEARS ARE JUST WAY TOO HEAVY!

GARA (CLATTER)

BAGON (CRASH)

SCREW THIS!

I'M DONE WITH BOTH REHAB AND CLEANING!

DAM-MIT!

BA (FWOOSH)

PICHA (SPLAT)

OH.

ISN'T...*HIS* ROOM UP ABOVE US? ARE WE GONNA BE OKAY?

UUGH.

THIS IS GONNA RUST!

OH! HE'S SUPPOSED TO GET BACK FROM HIS SOLO MISSION TODAY, RIGHT?

HIM...

KOTOHARU.

A NEWCOMER DOING REHAB...?

WHICH MEANS THAT YOU WERE BLOWING OFF LIVING IN GENERAL.

YOU WERE BLOWING OFF YOUR REHAB.

I—

I SAID I'M SORRY!

GIN (SHNNK)

YOU...ARE GUILTY.

THEN THAT MEANS IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I KILL YOU.

BATAN (OPEN)

OH?

CONTAINER: VANILLA RED BEAN

AKUTA-NII!

ARE YOU WELL?

ABOUT THAT THING YOU ASKED ME TO BRING BACK FOR YOU...

MUCHA (MUNCH)

MUCHA

KOTOHARU!

ARE YOU AND RED ALL BUDDY-BUDDY ALREADY?

AWWW.

FOR REAL?

I GOT YOU SOME HONEY NECTAR COOKIE CHOCOLATES INSTEAD.

THE BROWN SUGAR PUDDING WAS ALL OUT OF STOCK.

BECHA (SPLAT)

HUH?

...THE HELL WAS THAT?

THE RED-HEADED NEWBIE?

PIKU (TWITCH)

AKUTA-SAN TOOK A LIKING TO HIM...

...AND DRAGGED HIM BACK FROM A JOB.

...WHO WAS THAT?

PERA (BABBLE)

LET'S SEE...

HIS SISTER TURNED INTO A SPIDER...AND THEN THERE WAS THE STUFF WITH HIS ARMS AND LEG, AND...

.....

WELL, YOUKOU-KUN...HAD A REEEALLY ROUGH TIME OF IT.

PERA

AKUTA-NII DID...?

MISHI (SQUEAK)

AHHN!

PRIVATE

AHH!

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, YARMIDER-SAMA?

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE ASSEMBLY, YOU KNOW.

YOU GIRLS ARE SPECIAL.

AFTER ALL...

...YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL *TEETH.*

PIKI (POP)

!?

?

...AHH...

PIKI

PAKIKI (CRACK)

PI!

FATHER YAR-MIDER.

WE'RE DONE DISSEMINATING THE BRAIN-WASHING DRUGS IN THE HALL.

YOU CAN START THE BLESSINGS AT ANY TIME.

I WANT TO BE BLESSED! ¥

BUHIN (SNORT)

BECHIN (SNAP)

BOGIN (CRACK)

BEEP

Point 2453...

KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA (CLACKA)

I'm picking up signs of a Spider transforma-tion...

DORU (VROOOM)

KII

The Angel Friendship Society.

It's the headquarters for some cult-type new religion.

There's a 99.99% percent chance that Yuuzou Yamada, who calls himself the founder of the church, has *transformed*.

DORU

DODO

DODODO (RUMBLE)

...He's former yakuza, and he has prosthetics and skin grafts from Amenotori to replace his severed pinkies and cover his tattoo.

...There have been nasty rumors of bankrupt and missing believers for some time now...

DORU (VROOOM)

...OHH?

DODO (RMBL)

NOT BAD.

エンゼル愛宝会
ANGEL'S LOVE

WE CAN LET LOOSE...

GAKON (CLUNK)

...AND JUST DO THE USUAL.

DO (WHOOSH)

DOGO (CRASH)

HE'S JUST A NORMAL SPIDER THAT WE CAN SLAUGHTER!

ZAN (THUD)

DOOON (BOOOM)

LET'S ROLL, JACKALOPES!

...HMPH!

HUH?

YOU'RE A JACKALOPE, AREN'T YOU?

YOU CAN OBSERVE WHAT A NORMAL JOB IS LIKE.

I CAN BARELY MOVE.

WHY DID I HAVE TO COME...?

GURA (WOBBLE)

"HMPH"...? COME ON!

I'M THE ONE WHO COULD USE A BREAK HERE, YOU KNOW.

PIKU (TWITCH)

GARA (CLURCH)

YOU LOT, PROTECT THE FATHER!!

GARA (CLATTER)

T—

TERROR-ISTS!?

YES!!

HAIL YAR-MIDER!!

ZUPAA (SHINK)

DA (SHOONK)

DAN

DARARARA (RAT-TAT-TAT)

GO (WHUD)

IF YOU GET TO THE HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY, THEY CAN REATTACH THOSE.

SINCE MY BLADES ARE SO SHARP.

HYU (FWISH)

KACHI (CLICK)

BOTO (PLOP)

!!?

BOTON

BOTO

DON'T GRAB THE WRONG ARMS, OKAY?

LOOK AT THEM RUN.

GYAA

AA!

EEEEEK!

THEY'RE MON-STERS!

DEVILS!

THEY'RE NOT HUMAN!

NO...

THEY'RE DEMONS!

HERE-TICS! SCOUN-DRELS!

WE'RE...THE JACKALOPES.

KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE— "THERE'S NO POINT IN REGRETTING THINGS..."

DID I GET CARRIED AWAY AND COUNT MYSELF AS ONE OF THEM?

HUH?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

GASU (THWACK)

"...SO JUST SLEEP."

...SO WHERE'S THE ACTUAL SPIDER?

GORI (GRIND)

GICHI (SCRAPE)

GII (CREAK)

GORI

GORI (GRIND)

FOUND ANOTHER ONE!

A GOLD TOOTH! ¥

FOUND IT! ♡

BUHIHI (OINK)

ZOKU (SHUDDER)

...!

HM?

WHO'S THERE...?

THIS WON'T DO!

IF YOU TAKE ONE STEP INTO MY GOLDEN ROOM OF SWEETS...

BUHI

JAKIN (KA-CHAK)

BUHI (SQUEAL)

MY GOLDEN DAVID!?

DOGONN (SMASH)

BUHIII

MY KAKIEMON VASE!

PAGIN (CRACK)

BUHIIII

SUPAN (SLASH)

MY **PABLO** DIEGO JOSE FRANSISCO DE PAULA JUAN NEPOMUCENO MARIA DE LOS REMEDIOS CIPRIANO DE LA SANTISIMA TRINIDAD RUIZ Y **PICASSO!!**

BUH!!!!

DAMMIT!

CADRE, CAN'T YOU EVEN PROTECT MY PRECIOUS GOLD!?

DOTA (THUD)

DOTA

I'LL MINCE YOU UP IN A CESSPOOL AND FEED YOU A SAUSAGE MADE FROM YOUR OWN INTESTINES!

GOGO (RUMBLE

ENOUGH WITH ALL THAT MUTTERING, YOU DAMNED PIG!

I HAD TO COME OUT HERE AND MISS BIG SIS MIDARI'S SHOWER TIME BECAUSE OF YOU!

MISHI

MISHI (CREAK)

HEEEY.

YOUR REAL VOICE IS COMING OUT, MATSUGO.

THEY EVEN KILLED MY FEMALE FOLLOWERS!

IT'S ALL THEIR FAULT!

!?

WH- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR BODY?

F- FATHER!?

GA (GRAB)

!

IF YOU DON'T CHANGE YARMIDER-SAMA BACK, I'LL KILL THIS ONE!

EVEN IF YOU DO, I'LL KILL HIM ANYWAY!

TERRORIST DEVILS!

ONE!

TWO!

GICHI (PRESS)

WHOA, SHIT...! WHY NOW, WHEN I CAN'T EVEN MOVE?

YOUKOU, WAS IT?

SLICE

YOU'RE IN THE WAY. YOU'RE HOLDING US BACK.

CHIN (CLINK)

AND YOUR HEART TOO, RIGHT?

I HEARD YOUR STORY.

ZURU (SLIP)

...HOW-EVER...

GA (GRAB)

.....

LIKE I SAID! MY ARMS AND LEGS ARE STILL...!

YORO (STAGGER)

A SPOILED LITTLE BRAT LIKE YOU IS AN EYESORE.

WE'VE LOST OUR BODIES...

...ALL OF THE JACKALOPES ARE LIKE THAT.

...AND EVEN MORE. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

ANGELS... HELP US!

GIVE US YOUR GOLDEN FEATHERS ...!

BUSHA (SMASH)

BUBI (SQUEAL)

HEE!

ALL MY GOOOLD !!

BIKI

GOLD?

THE GOLD... HEE HEE!

HA!

BIKI (POP)

GOLD!

YOU LIKE GOLDEN STUFF...

...BUT *WE* WANT TO SEE THE COLOR OF YOUR FILTHY, STINKING BLOOD!

...RIGHT...

GOLD?

GAN (SMACK)

DON'T TOUCH ME, PIGMAN.

YOU REALLY WENT OFF THE DEEP END FAST WITH YOUR LOVE FOR BLING.

...KOTOHARU?

CLICK

LACK

GOLD?

HARTWIG KOTONE.

CHIKIKI (CLIIICK)

THE GEARS IN MY BACK HAVE DECIDED YOUR FATE.

KIN CHINK

YOU ARE GUILTY.

GOLD?

THIS IS YOUR PUNISH-MENT.



GAN (WHACK)

.....

...!

GOOD JOB★

BACHIN (CLICK)

I WONDER IF BIG SIS MIDARI IS STILL IN THE SHOWER...

HUH? AKUTA-NII... HOW ARE WE GETTING BACK?

OH.

...

...THE TRAIN?

It appears the kidnapped followers' bodies were sold.

...I SEE.

Pi.

Incoming.

BUN (BZZZ)

...Re-port-ing...

...on the latest Spider incident.

The name of the purchaser, who acted through a dummy shell company, is...

...Amenotori.

WHAT?

GA (STOMP)

SU (SHP)

.....

THEY'VE BEEN DESTROYED?

THE ANGEL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY...? OH, THEM.

.....

.....

.....

WE'VE LOST ONE OF OUR SUPPLIERS FOR OUR *MATERIALS!*

...THEY TRULY ARE ANNOY-ING...

THOSE JACKA-LOPES...!

DINER

IS THIS... THE SAME BUILDING AS YESTERDAY?

WOW.

HE'S REALLY BEEN BUSY, HASN'T HE?

GYU (SQUEEZE)

TSURU (SLIP)

KYU (SQUEAK)

GOTO (BUMP)

OH. !

GACHA (CKACHAK)

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

DON'T CLEAN THE PLACE WHERE I KEEP MY PERSONAL THINGS!

AH!

?

BASA (RUSTLE)

I'M THE ONE...

...WHO WANTS TO ASK WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

AH!

THE PAPER NAPKIN AND DISPOSABLE CHOPSTICKS AKUTA-NII USED ARE RUINED!

A HIDDEN CAMERA ...?

IT'S MY COLLECTION OF PHOTOS OF THE MAN I DEEPLY RESPECT.

...ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE KAKUJOU FAMILY RULES—

"NEVER THINK OF THIS GUY AS COOL EVER AGAIN!"

click.

OHH?

.....

HONESTLY! IF YOU GOT ANYTHING DIRTY, I'LL KILL YOU!

...YOU WON'T "PUNISH" ME?

BAKIN (CLACK)

GU (CLENCH)

I'VE GIVEN UP ON TRYING NOT TO LIVE NOW...

...I WONDER WHOSE FAULT THAT IS?

.....

...HMPH!

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

THE WORLD
IS DEAD,
THE PARADE WILL
START.

KATATA (TAPPA)

KATA

KATA

TA

04

PIIII (FWEEEE)

KATA

KATA

TA

GOPOPO (POUR)

Repeat Anim

-Human train

#04
CHEAP THRILLS

KATA (CLACK)

KATA

KATA

KATA

...YAMAGA-SAN.

Repeat Animal Head Killing

~Human trafficking and the organization in oppositio

Ritsuko Yamaga, Japan Daily Bulletin

Here is my take on the killings that took place in Tokyo on April 8th.
The more I look into the family involved in the killings, the more the relationships start to tangle up like a spider's web. |

SPACE NOODLE

宇宙麺

宇宙油フライ

標準栄養成分表1食（777g）当たり

エネルギー	∞
たん白質	6g
脂　質	9g
知　力	3g
すばやさ	4g
体　力	2g
かしこさ	7g
ビタミンα	0.3g
ビタミンΩ	0.8g

ゴッド・アイにて分析
エネルギー食塩相当量
めん・かやく 666kcal 5g
スープ 5kcal 1g
合計 671kcal 6g

熱湯3分

TIMER

M S

3:00

START/STOP MINUTE SECOND

MEMORY

RESET

SIGN: SOCIETY NEWS

社会報道部

YOU HAVEN'T WRITTEN ANY ARTICLES LATELY.

AND YOU HARDLY EVER COME INTO THE OFFICE EITHER... YOUR DESK'S ALWAYS EMPTY.

YOUR AWARD'S GOTTA BE REALLY LONELY.

ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO THE STORY I'M CHASING RIGHT NOW.

THIS AWARD'S NOT GOOD FOR ANYTHING BUT A LID FOR MY CUP NOODLES.

KATATATA (CLACKA) TA

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE ANIMAL HEAD KILLINGS...

...IS AN ORGANIZATION OF MONSTERS FIGHTING OTHER MONSTERS.

KATA

THE OTHER MONSTERS: MYSTERIOUS CREATURES WITH ANIMAL COSTUME HEADS.

THEY OFTEN HAVE MULTIPLE AND/OR DEFORMED LIMBS.

THE ORGANIZATION OF MONSTERS: A GANG OF APPARENTLY HORNED CREATURES.

THEY ARE ARMED WITH POWERFUL WEAPONRY WHOSE ORIGIN AND FUNCTIONALITY ARE UNKNOWN.



LABEL: EVIDENCE FILE

LABEL: POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MEDICAL EXAMINER

...we cannot determine their identity by their face because of the animal head.

And it will be difficult to tell exactly who this is. Especially since...

How-ever...

...Based on what I've found, most likely...

...they were originally human.

...the DNA has been "over-written."

MY HYPOTH-ESIS—

THE ORGANIZATION OF MONSTERS' GOAL...IS TO EXTERMINATE THE ANIMAL-HEADED MONSTERS.

WHETHER THEY ARE ACTING ON A GRUDGE OR PERFORMING THE EXECUTIONS IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE...IS UNKNOWN.

KATA

KATAN

KATA (CLACK)

KATA

KATA

...ON SEVERAL OF THE CORPSES BELIEVED TO BE FROM THE ANIMAL-HEADED MONSTERS...

THESE ARE...

THESE TRANSPLANT MARKS THAT CAN BE FOUND...

Hello.

It's time for "Traces of Miracles."

BACKDROP: TRACES OF MIRACLES

We have their young president on the line with us right now.

...is Amenotori, the revolutionary medical company.

The miracle we're focusing on today...

...but to provide "a better life."

...We aim not to provide cures...

By selectively causing the patient's own cells to replicate themselves...

Injuries.

Ill-nesses.

Acci-dents.

...We can give the patient what was lost from such events and thus lighten their hearts.

KATA

KATACCLACK

Amenotori. In the past ten years or so, what was once a small pharmaceutical company has now grown to be a juggernaut with a world market share of over sixty percent.

—And behind their revolutionary techniques

KATA

KATA KATA KATA TA TA

AFTER PUBLISHING A GROUND-BREAKING PAPER ON THOSE VERY PRINCIPLES...

"CLONING OF HUMAN TISSUE."

"DNA SUBSTITUTION."

"INTERSPECIES BONE, MUSCLE, AND NERVE TRANSPLANTS."

...YOUNG KURAMA HAZAMA WENT MISSING.

THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT SHE HAS SOME CONNECTION TO AMENOTORI.

BUT THE INTEREST-ING PART IS...

KATA

KATA

...HER YOUNGER BROTHER, SHIRAMA HAZAMA. HIS FIELD OF STUDY WAS...

...THE GENIUS WHO OUTSHONE EVEN HER...

...CAN'T POSSIBLY BE A COINCI-DENCE...

KATATA (CLACK)

...AND THE FIGHT BETWEEN THESE MONSTERS THAT SEEM TO BE THE VERY MANIFESTA-TIONS OF THEIR RESEARCH...

...REFINING SPECIALTY METALS...

...AND INTEGRATING METAL PARTS INTO THE HUMAN BODY.

...THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THESE SIBLINGS...

Hmm?

PI (BEEP)

A weird message came in to your dummy account.

Doc?

CAPTION: YAMAGA

.....

HMM.

"...have something to do with the 'artificial metal' in your old papers? Please give me more details."

Yadda, yadda.

"Could the 'scraps of mysterious metal' found at the sites of several different killings...

...SO SHE GOT TO ME FROM THOSE "SCRAPS OF MYSTERIOUS METAL," HUH?

IT DOES HAVE A NAME, YOU KNOW. "VARIABLE STEAM DISTORTION METAL."

Yeah, but you constantly change the name!

THAT'S NOT THE NAME YOU SAID LAST TIME.

I THOUGHT I'D COMPLETELY ERASED MYSELF FROM THE RECORDS.

SHE'S A PRETTY GOOD JOURNALIST.

AND SHE GETS EXTRA POINTS FOR BEING A WOMAN WEARING THOSE FRAMELESS GLASSES!

That's beside the point.

WELL, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE IT. THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN WORK WITH IT TOO.

...AND FUSING IT TO HUMAN NERVES IS SUCH A DELICATE TASK, IT REQUIRES FINE MOLDING USING ANTI-MATTER.

TAKING THIS METAL WITH ITS VARIABLE COMPRESSION RATIO THAT CAN GO DENSER THAN TWENTY-SEVEN G/CM3...

...SO...

...HOW IS IT...

...YOUKOU-KUN WAS ABLE TO USE THOSE GEARS?

I NEVER MAKE MISTAKES.

...WHICH MEANS...

LABEL: YOUKOU KAKUJOU

Sample

...THERE MUST BE *SOME MISTAKE WITH HIS VERY EXISTENCE...*

TELEVISION: MODERN MEDICINE, TRACES OF MIRACLES

...Anyone can enjoy Amenotori's techniques...

×1.0

TIMER M S

QUES-TION.

IF THESE MEDICAL TECH-NIQUES...

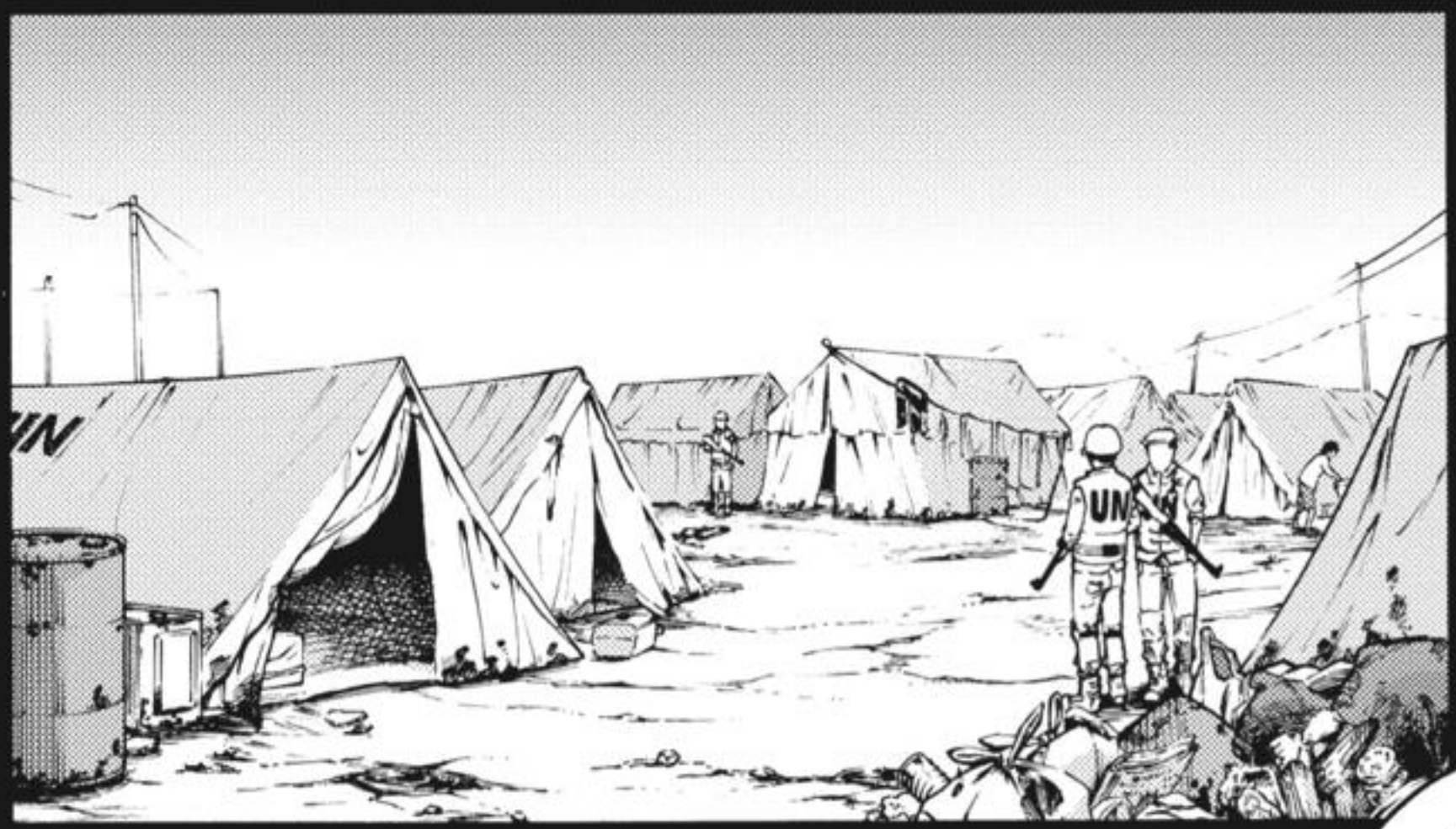
KATA (CLACKA) KATA



The conclusion I have come to is |



...WAS THAT INCIDENT.







THE BOY AGREED TO AN INTERVIEW IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME SCRAPS OF FOOD.

OH?

HE GAVE IT TO YOU?

IT'S FROM MY FRIEND.

YOU THINK?

THAT'S QUITE A WONDERFUL BRACELET.

BOTH HIS EYES AND HIS HEART WERE BLANK AND DEAD.

NO.

I MADE IT WITH THE BULLETS THEY SHOT INTO HIS HEAD.

RITSUKO!

BUT THEN, ON THE FINAL DAY OF MY TIME THERE...

WHAT WAS IT CALLED AGAIN?

"ARMENUT-TORY"?

OR WAS IT "AMOONO-TURY"?

WOW!

REALLY?

I DID IT!

I GOT A JOB THAT SHOULD PAY ENOUGH TO EVEN FEED MY COUSINS!

HE WAS SMILING LIKE A PROPER CHILD.

...THEN, A FEW MONTHS LATER...

...DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS OFF A HIGHWAY IN G PREFECTURE...

KEEP OUT KEEP OUT KEEP OUT KEEP OUT

...OKAY.

...NO PICTURES INSIDE, NOT EVEN FOR YOU.

AND DON'T HURL EITHER.

A MASS MURDER...?

KEEP OUT KEEP OUT KEEP OUT KEEP OUT KEEP OUT

MP

THIS WAS A CASH COW FOR THE DUMBASSES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE YAKUZA TOTEM POLE.

THEY "RECRUITED" ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

BUT REALLY, SELLING HUMAN ORGANS NOWADAYS...

COOLER: LUNG

COOLER: KIDNEY, MALE

I CRIED...

...AND I THREW UP.

THEN I DID IT AGAIN AND AGAIN, AND I FINALLY REACHED AN ANSWER.

KATA

TA

KATATA (CLACK)

"ARMENUTTORY."
"AMOONOTURY."

NO...

IT WAS AMENOTORI.

KATA (TAPPA)

KATA

KATA

KATATA

KATA

CLONING A PATIENT'S OWN CELLS IS WHAT ANY RESEARCHER WOULD CONSIDER THE ETHICAL IDEAL... BUT IT'S BEEN PLAGUED WITH SET-BACKS AND DECLARED "AN IMPOSSIBLE TECHNIQUE"...

PERHAPS INSTEAD OF USING A STRANGER'S BODY PARTS, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST...

SO PERHAPS AMENOTORI'S TECHNIQUE GOES ABOUT HUMAN TRANSPLANTS THROUGH A **DIFFERENT APPROACH TO BEGIN WITH?**

PERHAPS THIS TECHNIQUE IS ONE OF COUNTER-FEITING?

...THEY'RE ONLY ACTING AS IF THEY WERE THE PATIENT'S OWN FLESH AND BLOOD?

I HAVE PLANS TO MEET WITH SOMEONE WHO USED TO HAVE TIES TO AMENOTORI THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

I'M ON THE TRAIL OF A HUGE STORY RIGHT NOW.

KATA (CLACKA)

KATA

KATA

KATA

KATA

TA

KATA

KATA

KATA

KATA

TATA

KA

orrow. Depending on what I learn tomorrow|

or[illegible]his could expose a great evil that

s b[illegible]n hidden in the dark corners of s|

BO (FWOOSH)

SPACE NOODLES
宇宙麺
熱湯3分
GAS
PI
PI
(BEEP)
TIMER
M
S
START
SET
MEMORY
RESET
PI
PON
(BOUNCE)
PON

POOON

PON

PON (BOUNCE)

...Hey.

Make sure you *go back* to normal.

HELLOOO?

YOU DONE TAKING CARE OF THAT ANNOYING LITTLE BUG?

ジュルル
JURU (SLURP)

シュン
SHUN (FWISH)

ピキ
PIKI

ピキピキ
PIKIKI

シュリュリュ
SHURURU (SLITHER)

ピキ
PIKI (POP)

ボス
BOSU (THUD)

……



O.

YES, I HEAR YOU, CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA!

AHH!

...Some-one answer me!!

JURU (SLURP)

ZURU

ZURU

ZURU

Huh?

SHE'S EATING SOME RAMEN TOO.

IT'S FINE! SHE WAS JUST PLAYING A LITTLE SOCCER WHILE I WAS OFF RUNNING AN ERRAND!

OH, KURAMA-CHAN? WE EVEN TOOK CARE OF THAT REPORTER WHO WAS GONNA SQUEAL TO THE AUTHORITIES!

PRAISE ME!

BWA HA!

WHOA!

GON (THWACK)

IN THAT CASE...

...THEN THAT MEANS WE CAN USE HER.

ZAPUN (SPLISH)

The new girl doesn't talk much, but she's adapting just fine!

BWA HA!

...LET'S HAVE HER JOIN IN ON THE *WORK.*

UMM...

THE HORNED GUYS...

UM...

...THE *WORK*?

...THE *JACKA-LOPES,* RIGHT?

WE JUST HAVE TO...

KILL THEM AND KILL THEM AND MAKE THEM RESENT LIFE, GOD, AND EVEN THEIR OWN EXISTENCE.

...BURN THEM. STRANGLE THEM. RIP THEM UP.

AND JUST DESTROY THEM COMPLETELY, RIGHT?

STAB THEM. DROWN THEM. RAPE THEM. TORMENT THEM.

...YES♡ THAT'S PERFECT.

SHIKA-GURA...


...MY LOVELY LITTLE SPIDERS.



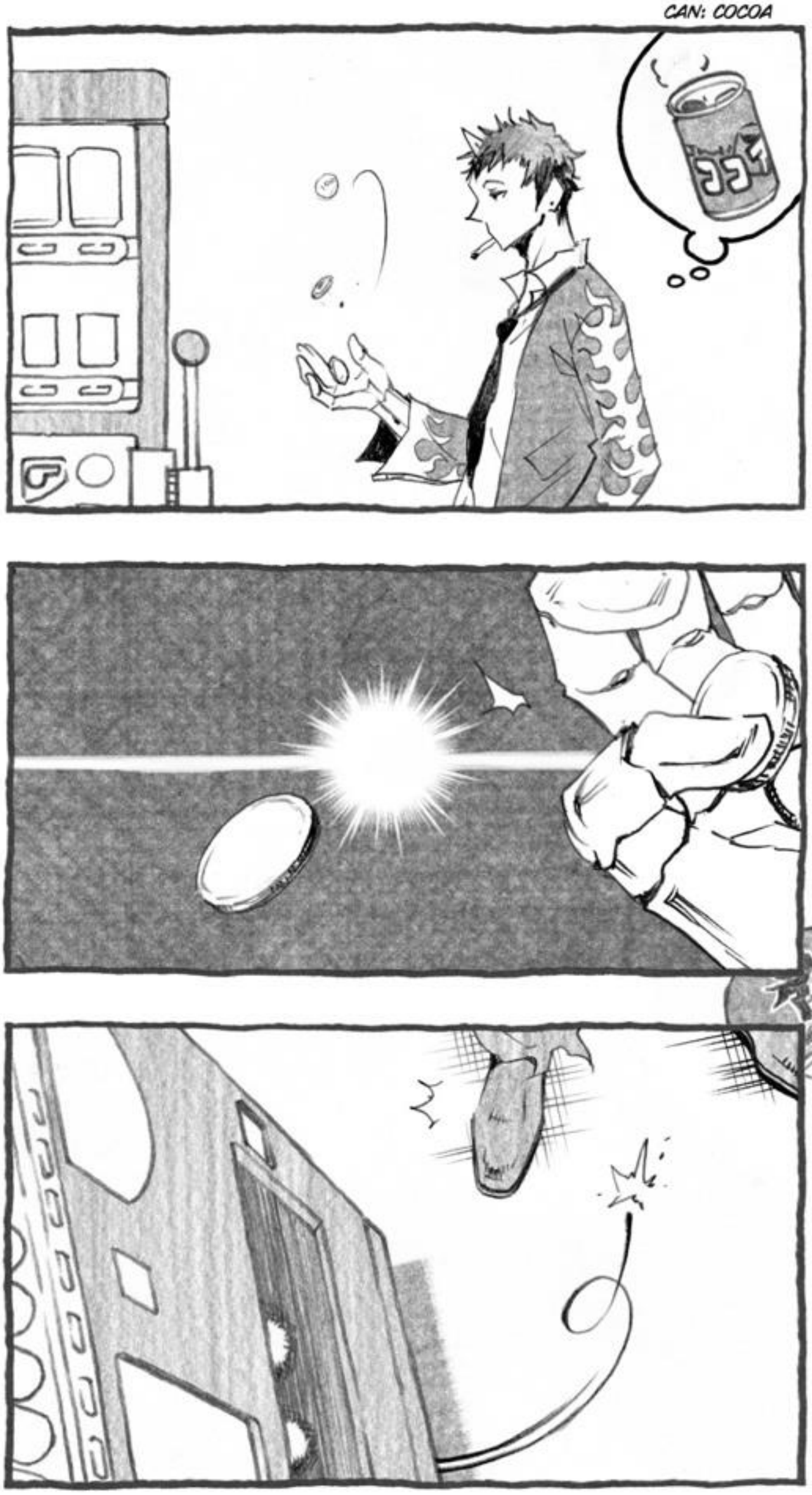
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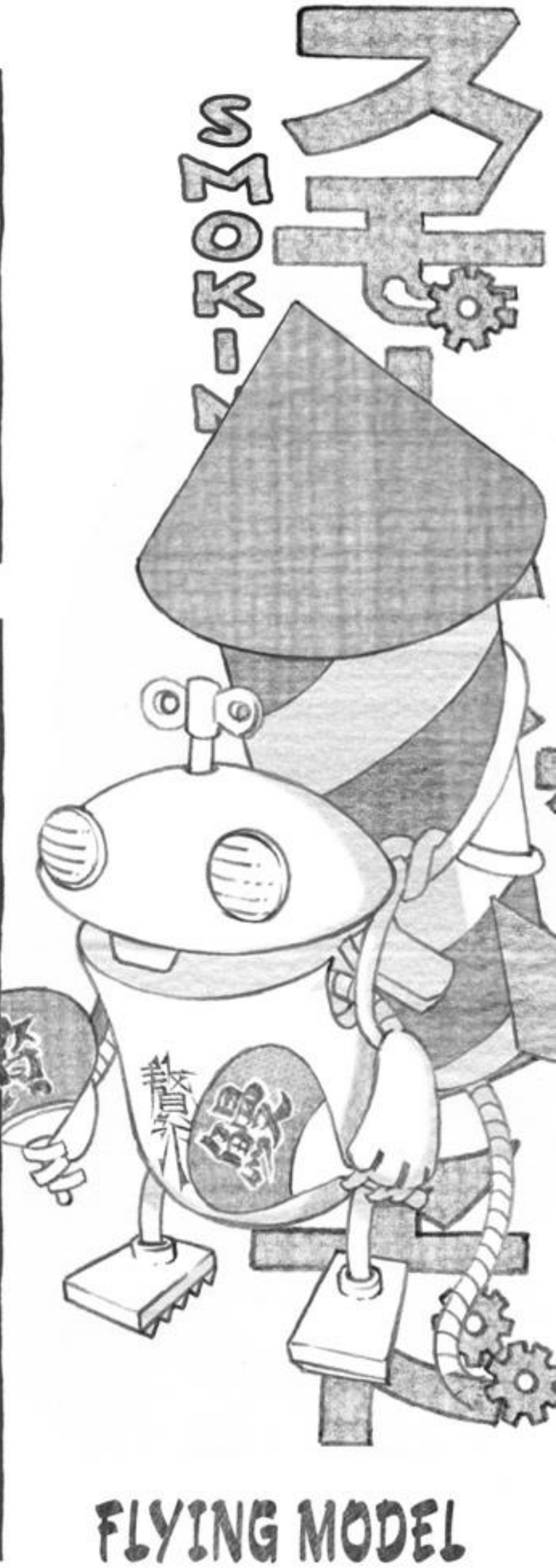
CLick.

Pi

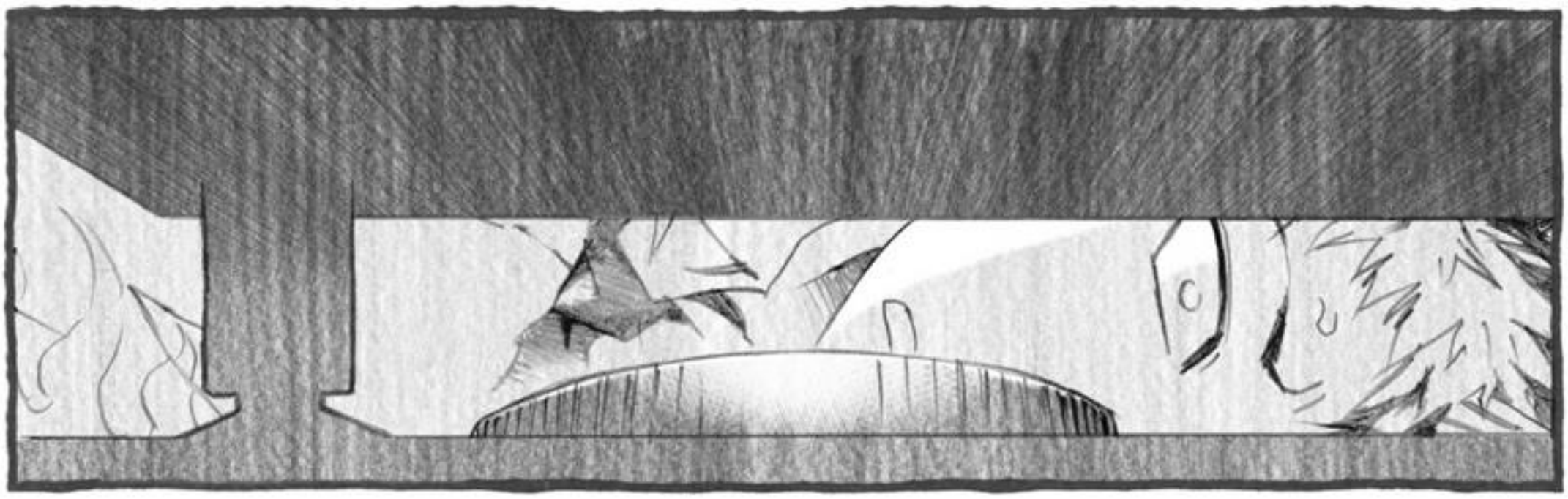
GOCHI
(THUNK)

CAN: COCOA





FLYING MODEL



SMOKIN' PARADE #01

BY JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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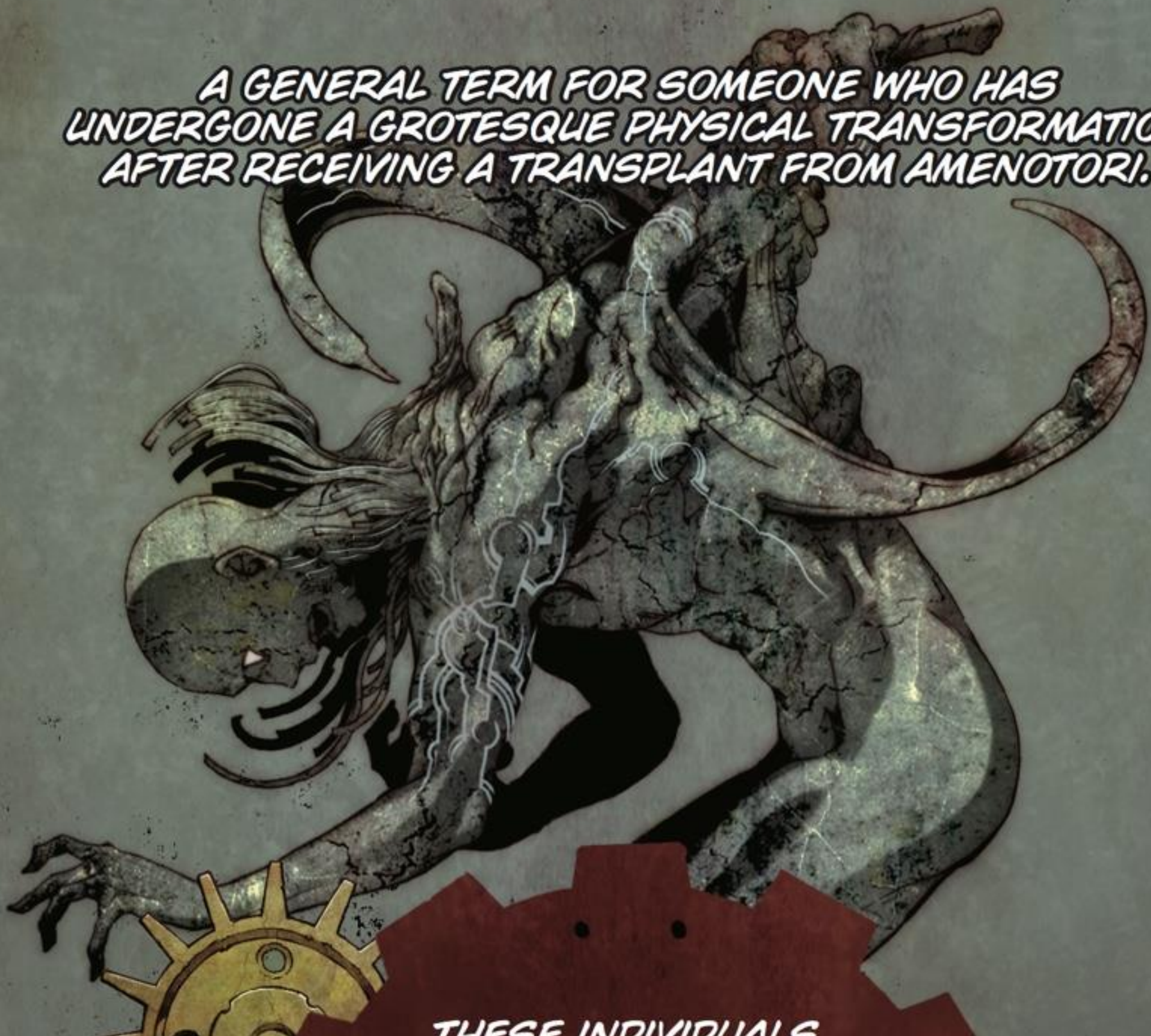
JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

2

SKIN PRADE

SPIDER—

A GENERAL TERM FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS UNDERGONE A GROTESQUE PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION AFTER RECEIVING A TRANSPLANT FROM AMENOTORI.



THESE INDIVIDUALS APPEAR TO HAVE LOST ALL ABILITY TO CONTROL THEIR MOST BASIC DESIRES.



#05

BLURRING BLACK & WHITE

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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Sneaky Stratagem

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Apocalyptic Ants

093 #08
Spare No Effort

155 #09
Right or Wrong

SMOKIN' PARADE

CHARACTERS

AKUTA

A Jackalope who has taken a liking to Youkou because he sees himself in the kid. A heavy smoker with a sweet tooth.

YOUKOU KAKUJOU

A boy who lost both arms and right leg when his younger sister turned into a Spider. He has replaced one missing arm with a Gear and joined the Jackalopes.

KOTOHARU

A member of the Jackalopes. He has an incredible amount of respect for Akuta and keeps a collection of items related to him.





AMENOTORI

Amenotori, the revolutionary medical company that has made it possible to transplant any human part. This individual appears to have some connection to the company...?



MIDARI



MATSUGO



SPIDERS (8∞8)

Monsters whose heads have transformed into animal costume heads. Their physical strength is heightened and their instincts run amok.



DOC

click

.....

click clack

UH, DOC?

THIS IS A PHYSICAL, RIGHT?

YES, WHICH IS WHY I WANT TO CHECK OUT YOUR SPERM COUNT.

GURURURU (RRRRUMBLE)

UWAAA

OH, I'M HUNGRY, SO I'M GONNA GO NOW.

FOR A BOY NOT TO GET AN ERECTION AT SEEING GEARS...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUKOU-KUN!?

健診室

SIGN: EXAMINATION ROOM

HFF!

HFF!

OKAY, POP 'EM OUT!♥ MARRY— I MEAN, LET'S EXAMINE YOUR CHEST!

JUST POP 'EM OUT!♡

OKAY, NEXT.

...MATSUGO-CHAN, WHICH DO YOU BET IT WILL BE? THE RIGHT CHEEK, OR THE LEFT ONE?

HUH?

...I'M BORED.

THANK YOU FOR THE HIGH KICK!

BAKIIN (THWACK)

YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO BE RIGHT UP THERE AT NUMBER ONE FOR BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS AGAIN THIS YEAR, AKUTA-NII.

HERE.

BORI (CRUNCH)

BORI

SO BORED.

PEACE IS BOOORING.

FO' SHO'.

THE ONE AND ONLY NUMBER ONE, THAT'S ME.

HA-!

IT DEFI-NITELY IS, AKUTA-NII.

...HUH?

YEAH, WE'VE HAD A BUNCH OF SPIDER SIGHTINGS.

BUT IT'S NOT ACTUALLY ALL THAT SLOW RIGHT NOW.

WHY IS HE ACTING LIKE THAT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ZAWA (CLAMOR)

...YES, THERE'S BEEN AN ACCI-DENT...

THERE'S A FIRE.

THE DRIVER ...?

...HE HASN'T COME OUT.

KOFF!
HGK!
-ZURU (DRAG)
ZAN (THUD)
NO...
THAT'S NOT THEM. ...DON'T TELL ME...
!?
HUH? THE RESCUE TEAM'S ALREADY HERE...?
I PREFER NOT TO NAME MYSELF.
SERVICING OTHERS...
...AND LETTING THEM NAME ME...
HGK!
HFF!
TH—
THANK YOU...
WHO ARE YOU...?

THAT IS THE FATE OF THE LONELY HERO, FIRE MASK!

WAA (CLAMOR)

FIRE MASK, THE MESSIAH OF THE BLAZE!!

IT'S FIRE MASK!

DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOUR NAME!?

THE REAL THING !?

WAAA
AAA!

慈愛病院

SIGN: CHARITABLE HOSPITAL

...IT'S NOT A SPIDER.

IT'S BASICALLY SPIDER-MAN.

HM?

I'VE HEARD OF HIM BEFORE.

"A HERO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO DEAL WITH THE SLOW RESPONSE OF RESCUE EFFORTS?"

NO WAAAY!

WITH THAT FACE AND ALL...

WHAT A WEIRDO.

SHAK! (SHINK)

LET'S TAKE CARE OF HIM BEFORE HE CAN GET—

ZA (SKID)

HEY!

BON (THWACK)

?

DON'T YOU DARE MAKE FUN OF FIRE MASK! HE'S COOL!

YOU BLACK DEVILS!

BAN (THWACK)

COOL IS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVING A SINGLE HORN AND A GUN FOR A RIGHT ARM.

BUT HE'S HARDLY "COOL," YOUNG MAN.

I SEE.

...?

THE DEVIL PART

THE BLACK PART

DADDY GOT BURNED UP IN THE FIRE, BUT HE SAVED ME AND MOMMY.

THAT'S WHY I'M GONNA BE A FIRE-FIGHTER!

慈癒病院

...THAT'S RIGHT. HE SAVED OUR LIVES.

SIGN: CHARITABLE HOSPITAL

.....

I WANNA SAVE PEOPLE LIKE FIRE MASK DOES.

DRAWING: MOMMY

DINER

HUH?

YOU KNOW, THAT SPIDER'S ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY.

DO WE REALLY HAVE TO KILL HIM?

HIS RECORD FROM WHEN HE WAS HUMAN SAYS HE WAS A HIGHLY DECORATED EMT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

AND EVEN NOW, AS A SPIDER, HIS BEHAVIOR IS THE SAME.

PERHAPS IT WAS AN ACCIDENTAL FLAG?

KATA

KATA (CLACK)

WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE HIM BE.

LAST TIME WE WENT TO CHECK, HE WAS THE FIRST ONE ON THE SCENE OF A CAR ACCIDENT.

YEAH.

FIRE MASK?

CAN A SPIDER EVEN BE "WHITE"?

PERHAPS HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY IMPULSE TO RUN WILD...

...OR HIS DESIRES ARE SIMPLY THAT PURE, JUST, AND INCORRIGIBLE.

SPIDERS WERE ORIGINALLY HUMAN.

DO HUMANS WITHOUT ANY "BLACK" ACTUALLY EXIST?

WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THEY'RE BORN GOOD OR EVIL, NO ONE DOUBTS THEY BECOME DIRTY AS THEY GROW UP.

IS THERE A PROB-LEM...

...IF HE'S WHITE?

WE CAN'T KNOW UNLESS WE CHECK EVERYONE IN EXIS-TENCE...

DON (BAM)

...BUT WOULDN'T IT BE MORE FUN IF THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO WERE TOTALLY CLEAN, NO MATTER HOW DEEP YOU DUG?

HA HA.

THAT'S A PRETTY CLEAR-CUT VIEW.

THERE'S NO INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENT FOR JOINING THE TEAM, IS THERE...?

HUH!?

SINCE WHEN IS THAT A MATTER OF "FUN"?

CHIN (CLINK)

...THEN, DO YOU WANT TO BET YOUR DINNER ON IT?

WHICH DO WE BELIEVE IN? WHICH DO WE HOPE FOR?

OR THE GLORY OF EVIL?

THE GLORY OF GOOD?

KAN (CLANG)

KAN

KAN

KOFF.

KOFF.

KOFF.

BAKIN (CRACK)

BEKI (KRAK)

WHOA!

THAT FACE! DID YOU LOSE A BET?

KOFF!

KOFF!

SORRY ABOUT THIS...

TO THINK WE WOULD HAVE A FIRE WHEN WE HAVE NO GAS OR POWER...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

GARA (CLUNK)


...
HMM?
OH, HOW FRIGHTEN-ING.
KOFF!
KOFF!
IT COULD BE ARSON.
I HEARD THERE'S A RASH OF THOSE LATELY.


THAT JUST WON'T DO.


ARE YOU TWO UN-HARMED?
YES.
WE WERE LUCKY.
KOFF!


...I CAN'T SAVE LIVES.
...WITHOUT AN INJURED PERSON...


HUH?
H.
BASA (RUSTLE)
...WE'LL HAVE TO START OVER.
GARAN (CLATTER)

I AM A HERO, AFTER ALL!

GA

GA

GA

GANI

THWACK

GARAN (CLATTER)

FUEL

MATCH

SETTING FIRES, DROPPING PEOPLE ON THE TRACKS, POISONING, CUTTING BRAKE LINES...

I'VE ALWAYS WORKED SO HARD JUST SO I COULD SAVE PEOPLE.

感謝状

PAPER: LETTER OF THANKS



WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE!?

GICHI

GI (CREAK)

...!?

GICHI (TAUT)

...UM.

WHAT WAS IT AGAIN? "MULLIGAN DISEASE BY PROCTOR"?

THAT'S MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME BY PROXY.

NOTE: MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME IS A MENTAL ILLNESS NAMED AFTER MUNCHAUSEN (THE BRAGGART BARON). THOSE AFFECTED INFLICT HARM ON THEMSELVES OR ON OTHERS ("BY PROXY") IN ORDER TO DRAW ATTENTION AND CONCERN.

PACHI (CRACKLE)

PACHI

JI (SIZZLE)

THAT.

YEAH.

HE'S BLACK.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING—?

DO (THUD)

DO

BEGYA (THWACK)

GOKYA (WHACK)

.....

DOKAN (SMASH)

BAGON (THUD)

DOGOO (CRASH)

MEGYAAAA (SMAAASH)

I'M TALKING ABOUT GIVING ME MY DINNER BACK!

YOU DAMNED HERO!

SAY WHAT?

PAN (THUMP) PAN

...BIG SIS.

DON'T SAY ANYTHING, OKAY?

FOOD IS SCARY...

あわわ... AWAWA (PANIC)

THAT'S GOING A BIT TOO FAR.

...JUST HOW MUCH DOES HE WANT HIS FOOD?

ANYWAY, IT REALLY SUCKS THAT I LOST THE BET!

I MEAN, TO THAT KID...

WELL, UH...

IT SUCKS THAT I WON.

...I THINK SO TOO.

OH!

GORO

GORO

GORO

GORO (ROLL)

GORO

I'M PLENTY BORED MYSELF, YOU KNOW, YOU DIABETIC WANNABE-AMERICAN.

HUH? THAT SUPPOSED TO BE ME!?

NEXT TIME, CALL ME, YOU STRAIGHT-BANGED IDIOT! I'M BORED OUT OF MY MIND HERE!

HEY, MIDARI!

I HEARD YOU GUYS WERE OUT GAMBLING WHILE DOC WAS SHOWING ME HIS SCREWS YESTERDAY!!

*HIS SCREW COLLECTION

...I REALLY SHOULDN'T BET WHEN MY CHANCES OF WINNING ARE A HUNDRED PERCENT.

HA.

IF YOU TAKE IT FOR GRANTED, YOU'RE GONNA LOSE SOMEDAY, YOU KNOW. ...THAT HUNDRED PERCENT CHANCE.

PIN (FWIP)

?

YOU BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR LUCK?

慈癒病院

SIGN: CHARITABLE HOSPITAL

KATSUN (THUNK)

YEAH?

.....

...I HOPE SO.

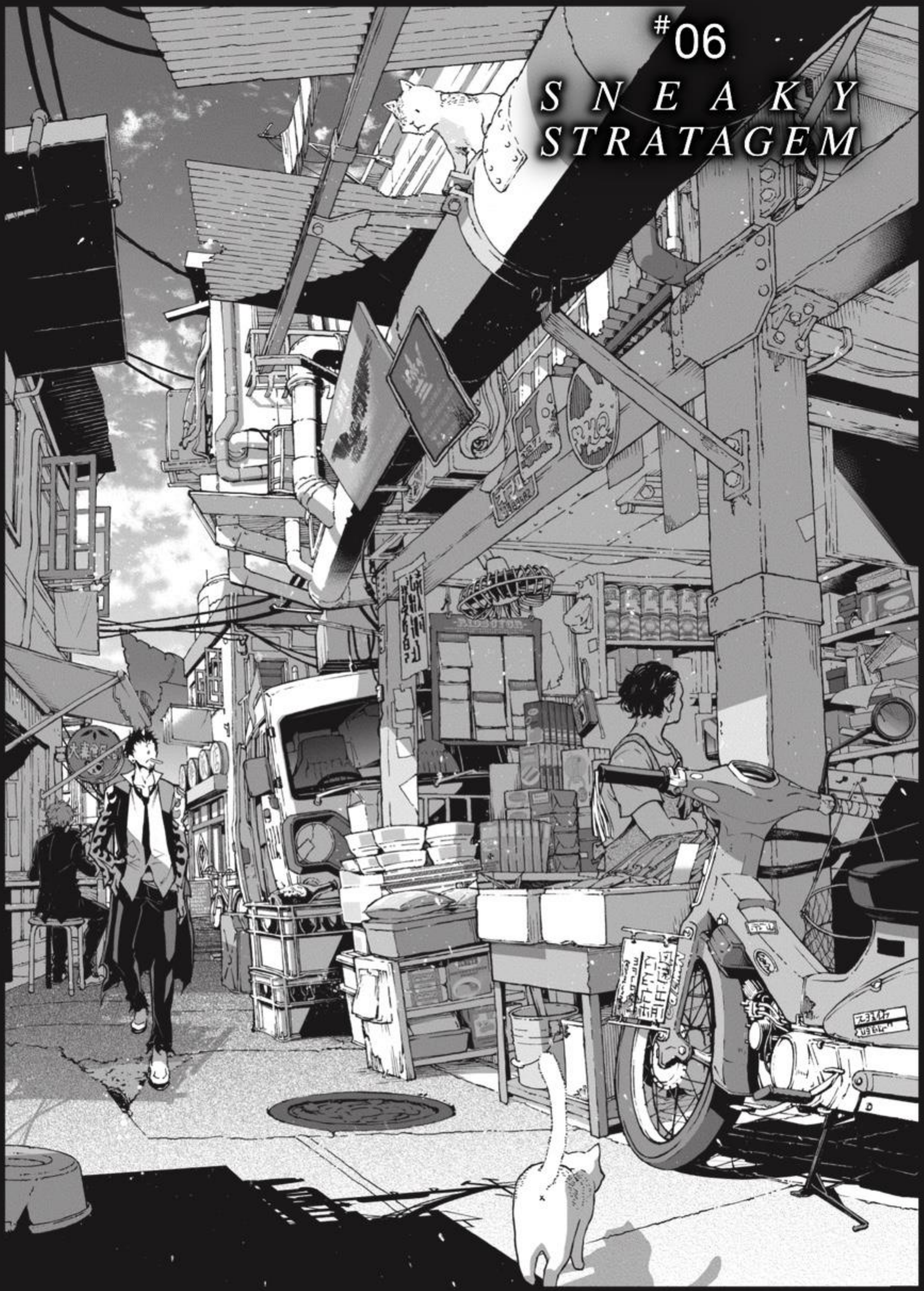
SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

#06
SNEAKY STRATAGEM



SIGN: FOOD & BOOZE

BANNER: MEAT BUNS

GOOD TASTE
&
CLEAN

I'M GETTING THIRTY.

WE GET PAID TWENTY-FIVE MEAT BUNS PER DAY.

GABU (CHOMP)

You're eating them now!?

A PART-TIME JOB!

...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING?

THERE'S ALWAYS ABOUT TEN TO TWENTY PEOPLE ON SHIFT THERE.

THE CLOCK ROCK?

I THOUGHT ALL THE JACKALOPES LIVED IN THE TOWER, BUT IT TURNS OUT I WAS WRONG.

AS LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP THE JACKALOPES A SECRET, YOU'RE FREE TO HAVE A JOB OR A FAMILY.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE THE MILITARY OR SOME CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

WE'RE JUST A BUNCH OF PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WHO GATHERED TOGETHER BECAUSE WE HAVE THE SAME IDEALS.

CHAAN CHAAKA (THRUM-THRUM)

AND THAT!

CHAAN CHAAKA

TAKE THAT!

KOTOHARU'S EARLY-MORNING RADIO CALISTHENICS ARE CRANKED UP TO LEVEL SIX.

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.

I WANNA SAVE UP SOME MONEY SO I CAN LIVE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

.....

.....

GACHAN (CRASH)

WHO KNOWS?

...Just how many of those family rules do you have?

IT TOTALLY GOES AGAINST KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE NUMBER FORTY-SEVEN: "YOU CAN SLEEP IN AS LONG AS YOU WANT."

GET BACK HERE!

操你妈! (FUCK YOUR MOTHER!)

YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE GONNA HAVE TO DO TO MAKE A LIVING HERE IN THE SLUMS!

娼人!
(WHORE!)

EeeWww!

PAPATAYIN KITA! BOBO PANGIT!
(I'LL KILL YOU, YOU STUPID BITCH!)

NOO!

THE JOHNS'RE WAITING, YOU KNOW.

HA HA.

NO...!

I...

ZA
(FWISH)

...!

PLEASE!

HELP... ME.

...

Don't, Youkou.

GOOD TA & CLEAN

We set up our operation in this rough part of town in order to avoid interference from the officials and Amenotori.

That means we have to avoid drawing attention to ourselves by not getting involved in anything other than our primary mission: exterminating Spiders.

If you set off your Gears for each and every little thing that pops up, we'll be out—

BAKIN (CRACK)

JAKI (KACHAK)

!?

OOOUT!

HUH? THE GEARS HAVE NAMES?

"NO NAME," THE LEFT ARM GEAR.

SMOKE-SCREEN "DRIZZLE," THE LUNG GEAR.

SOUND BLOCKER "EATJAM," THE STOMACH GEAR.

VIIN (WHIRR)

OKAY!

PUSHU (PSSHT)

GREAT GUN "ROTTEN," THE RIGHT ARM GEAR.

GO EASY ON THEM, OKAY?

YOU BASTARDS AND YOUR LITTLE TRICKS!

肉!
我日你!
(FUCK YOU!)

CHA (SHINK)

?!

WHAT'S WITH THESE GUYS!?

!

DOGYA CTHWACK)

URK!?

WHAT? SO YOU WERE IN ON IT TOO, GIRLIE?

POI (TOSS)

FUU (FWOO)

...WELL, GUESS WE REALLY DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK AGAINST THE BITCH AND HER FRIENDS, DO WE?

REALLY?

HUH.

...SO STRONG. SO FAST.

SOOO...

HOW MANY YOU WANT KILL

HOLES DO WHEN WE YOU?

JORORORORO (PISSSSSH)

WAAAAA!

.....

SORRY! DON'T!

NO! NO! NO! NO!

BASA (FLAP)

GAA (CAW)

GAH (THWACK)

HEY!

!

A CCAWD

YOU NEVER SAID THEY WERE GONNA BE MONSTERS!!

DOGON (THUD)

HEY, YOU! OLD MAN!

.....

AND WE'RE TAKING WHATEVER WEAPONS YOU'VE GOT!

FOR THE INTERROGA-TION! AND FOR MEDICAL BILLS TOO!

YOU DIDN'T PAY US ANYWHERE NEAR ENOUGH MONEY FOR THAT!!

THAT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER THREE HUNDRED!

SO YOU COULD AT LEAST GIVE ME BACK MY MONEY.

I'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF I RACK UP TOO MANY EXPENSES, AFTER ALL.

GH.

...YOU BARELY GOT ANY COMBAT DATA OUT OF THEM.

YOU GUYS ARE JUST ***TOO WEAK.***

GA (GRAB)

HUH!?

DON'T FUCK WITH ME! I'LL KILL YOU, OLD MAN...

EE!

!!

...OH WELL.

I'VE ALREADY FIGURED OUT WHICH OF THE BUNNIES' HORNS WILL BE MOST FUN TO BREAK OFF FIRST.

RIGHT, EVERY-ONE?

UNH...

NGUH.

KACHI
(CLICK)

BOBON
(BWAMMM)

OH, LOOK AT THE TIME.

KACHI (CLICK)

WHOOA!

ALL RIGHT! TIME TO EAT!

It doesn't bother you that you got fired on your first day!?

GA (CLENCH)

MAYBE TODAY WILL BE THE DAY WE GET A PUDDING RICE BOWL!

THAT'S NOT APPETIZING AT ALL!

No way!

I... REALLY HOPE NOT.

SMOKIN' PARADE

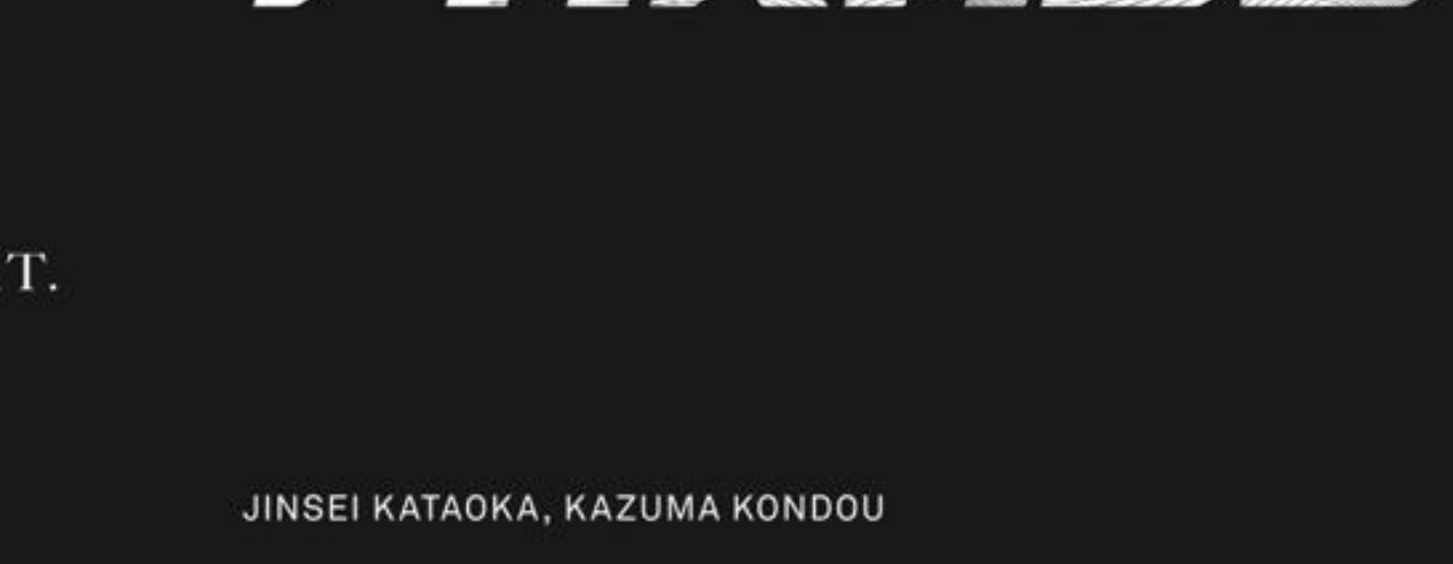
THE WORLD IS DEAD,
THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU



THE WORLD IS DEAD,
THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU



THE WORLD IS DEAD,
THE PARADE WILL START.

#07

P!

P!P!P!

!?

KATA KATA

KATA (CLACK)

I'M PICKING UP SIGNS OF A SPIDER.

POINT NINE—

P!P!P!P!P!P!

SMOKIN' PARADE

#07

APOCALYPTIC ANTS

CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA, ARE YOU ANGRY?

UM...

WELL, OF COURSE.

I'M LETTING YOU USE A LOT OF MY PRECIOUS RESEARCH SUBJECTS.

JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING UNREASON-ABLE...ALL RIGHT...?

...THOUGH IF NORMAL SPIDERS ARE ROUGH STONES...

...*YOU LOT* ARE CUT DIAMONDS.

SHIKAGURA?

OF COURSE. FIRST OFF...

...WE'LL GO AND GREET THE BLACK DEMONS—THE JACKALOPES.

BEEP!!

BEEP!

BEEP!

BEEP!

Emer-
gency!!

A large number of Spiders have appeared all over the western port region!!

HA!!

WH-WHAT DID I DO WITH MY HORNS?

WAAA (CLAMOR)

HOW ARE WE EVEN SUP-POSED TO DEAL WITH THEM ALL?

WHERE'D THEY ALL COME FROM...?

EIGH-TEEN!?

NO.

F-FOUR-TEEN OF THEM!?

CALM DOWN, EVERYONE.

WE'LL BLOCK THE ROAD CONNECTING THE RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD TO THE INDUSTRIAL AREA.

ZAN (SHFF)

SHAKIN (KA-CHAK)

THEY'RE ON SPECIAL RIGHT NOW, SO LET'S GO HAVE SOME FUN!

OKAY! ♡

WE JUST HAVE TO DEPLOY INDIVIDUALLY AND CRUSH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM.

EVERYONE'S GEARS ARE IN PERFECT CONDITION.

hmmm.

HAVE YOU EVER FOUGHT AGAINST MULTIPLE OPPONENTS BEFORE?

YOUKOU, YOU BASTARD.

CAN'T YOU EVEN SEE THAT THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION, YOU FOOL?

GIN (SHINK)

KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE NUMBER THIRTY-THREE:

"IF SOMEONE PICKS A FIGHT WITH YOU, JUST FIGHT BACK."

BAKIN (KA-CHAK)

...IF YOU DIE, I'LL PUNISH YOU.

"BLOW AWAY THE SMOKE OF BLOOD WITH NINETY-SEVEN DEGREE STEAM."

"KILL YOUR HEART, THEN KILL THEM."

"LET THE UNRUSTING GEARS TURN."

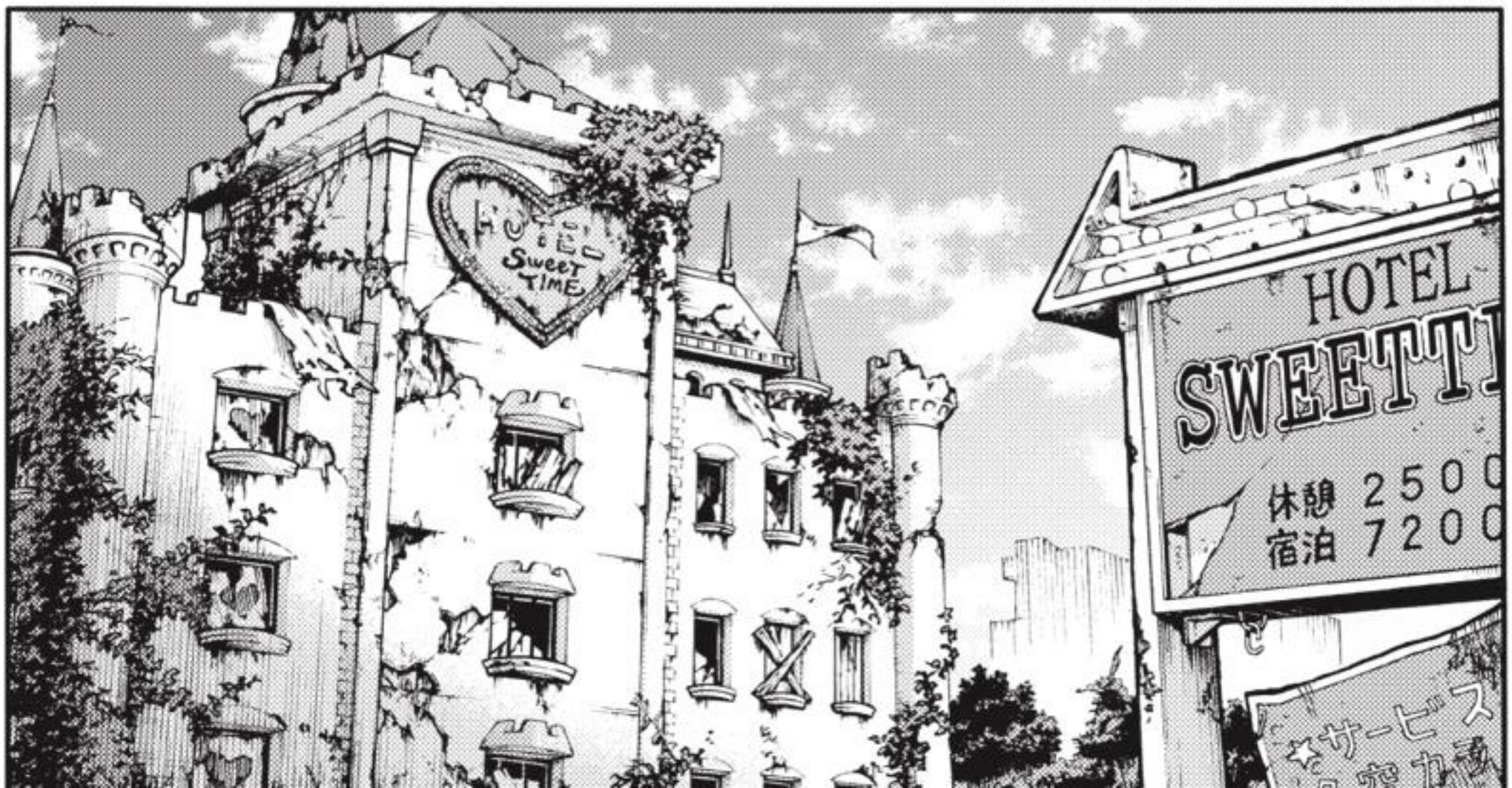
GASHA (KA-CHAK)

Hell Yeah!

Y'ALL GO AHEAD!

OKAY!!

SIGN: SHORT REST 2500, NIGHTLY RATE 7200



404

HOTEL
Sweet Time

...WILL STOP WORKING IF EVEN A GRAIN OF SAND OR A SPLINTER JUST A MICRON IN LENGTH WORKS ITS WAY IN...

...YOU KNOW, GEARS...

PORI (MUNCH)
PORI
GURU
GURU
GURU (WHIRL)
GURU
PORI PORI
SO...
...

BAG: POTATO SNACKS

.....
PORI
PORI
PORI PORI
PORI
WE ARE INCREDIBLY BORED HERE.
UM...
THEN, UM...
.....
AHH...

ZURU (SLIDE)
...I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME WE HAD SOME FUN.

HFF.

HAH...

HIC!

UHHN...

AAH...

click.

WELL?
WHY?
WHY?
?
HIC!
...HEY.
HEY...!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A DANGEROUS PLACE LIKE THIS...?
WELL? WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY?
WHY? WHY?
HEY, HEY, WHYYY?
WHY?
WHY? WHY? WHY?

WHY'D YOU KILL *MY* DAD?

"...CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT MY DAD.

"I...

"...MII-NEECHAN?"

"DIDN'T YOU...

"YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA SAVE HIM...

HÄFF!

BIG SIS MIDARI!

HEY...! YOU'RE WIDE OPEN, YOU KNOW!!

GA (THUD)

WHAT'S WRONG, SIS...?

SIS...!?

Creeeaak...

.....?

THE BATTLE IS CLOSER THAN I EXPECTED...

IN FACT... IT'S *EVEN*...?

211

CQB engage

PIKOON CBLINK

CQB engage

GII (CREAK)

YO.

Hm?

The cook from the cafeteria?

SHIBA-SAN!?

BUT YOU NEVER COME OUT OF THE KITCHEN!

WELL, MOVING'S JUST TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE.

(YOTA (STAGGER)

I'M MAKING BEEF STEW FOR EVERYONE FOR DINNER TONIGHT, SEE?

211 CQB engage

101 CQB engage

143 CQB engage

...?

HMM... SEE...

...I FIGURED I SHOULD PROOOBABLY CHECK ON SOMETHING.

...HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IS GONNA GO UNEATEN?

.....?

!!!

A NEW SPIDER AT NINE-TWO-THREE-THREE!?

Some-one!

Deal with it...!

NEW

Could it be that the large number of Spiders...

...was just a stalling tactic all along...!?

It's no good... Everyone's already engaged!?

THIS IS BAD...

...IS THIS SPIDER THE REAL THING!?

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO...?

BZT

KRKL

ZAZA (KRAKL)

Hey.

Point nine-two-three-three, right?

ZA

...AKUTA'S HEADING IN!☆

Click.

NO WAY!

WHOA ...!?

HE'S SEVEN AND A HALF MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHED-ULE...!

HA...

...WAY TO GO, AKUTA-NII!

01 02 03 04

Straight to your left.

Ninety more meters.

...I'll leave it to you!

KATA CCLACKA

KATA

...That blue warehouse!

GAGON (THWACK)

MMPH!

MGH!

CHIKA (GLINT)

A TRAP...!?

I WOULDA BEEN DEAD IF I'D SHOT AT IT FROM OUTSIDE...

...AKUTA!

YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT MORE CAREFUL, HAVEN'T YA?

.....!?

WHAT... ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

...BUT THAT GOATEE JUST DOESN'T WORK, YOU KNOW.


COMI
DOON (FWOOM)

HOME SWEET HOME

BWA HA!

SNIFFL!

...AHH, GEEZ...

I WAS OFF BY SEVEN WHOLE MINUTES...

HEY, HEY, HEY! HOW WAS IT?

HEY! HOW WAS MY ACTING?

PERFECT, RIGHT? DID YOU MISTAKE ME FOR AN ACTRESS?

WE TOOK OUT THE JACKALOPES' MAIN MAN, DIDN'T WE?

WHY ARE YOU CRYING? IT'S SOOO ANNOYING, MIKURO!

SHURU (SHWIRL)

LET'S HAVE A PARTY!

A PARTY!! WELL? WELL?

BWA HA!

THERE'S A DISCO BALL IN HERE!!

YEAH, ME TOO.

AT LEAST, WHEN MY HORRIBLE TEAMMATES AND I ARE TOGETHER...

...CELEBRATING THE BLOOD-STAINED SIGHT OF THOSE JACKALOPES BAWLING, AND ANTICIPATING THE INSIDIOUS AND GHASTLY TORMENT TO COME IN THE FUTURE!

IT'S ALL GOOD, RIGHT?

WITH MY THICK COFFEE THAT'S NINETY PERCENT SYRUP...

...AND YOU BASTARDS FOR TEAMMATES, I FEEL LIKE I'M ALWAYS AT A PARTY.

PORI CMUNCHD

PORI

PORI

.....

I CAN'T WAIT!

BWA HA!♡

.....

... ...

LET GO! AKUTA-NII...!

—NII!

.....

GET THAT MEDICINE!

... .

...HURRY UP AND CLEAR A SPOT!!



WHAT THE HELL...

...IS THIS...?

?

I GUESS NO ONE'S IN THE MOOD FOR DINNER AFTER ALL.

HEYYY, NOW...

THE SPIDERS... NO.

AMENOTORI GOT YOU GUYS, HUH?

TON (THUNK)

...AND THIS IS PROBABLY JUST THE APPETIZER.

SHIBA-SAN...!?

ZAWA (CLAMOR)

...!

...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

...YEAH.

THIS OLD MAN WHO CHEATED DEATH IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU GUYS.

...'COS I THINK NOW...

...THE BLOODY FULL-COURSE MEAL IS ABOUT TO BE SERVED.

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMO

THE WORLD IS

KUN^3

DEAD

PAR

THE PARADE WILL

ADE

START

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

KATANA WAR

#08

...THE BLOODY FULL-COURSE MEAL IS ABOUT TO BE SERVED.

KATSU (TAKK)

Click..

!?

...AND WILD.

MEN HAVE TO BE COOL...

...AND SMART...

BACHIN (KA-CHAK)

...ME.

THAT IS A TRUE MAN. ...IN OTHER WORDS...


#08
SPARE NO EFFORT

COOKING CHOPSTICKS

ポリ
PORI

ポリ
PORI (SKRITCH)

NO WAAA—

AAA

AY!

WELL...

BACK THEN, SHIBA-SAN WAS PRETTY ELEGANT.

AHH.

YEAH, YEAH.

THIS IS THE CRAPPY COOK WHO MAKES EVERYTHING WAY TOO SPICY, YOU KNOW!?

BAN (SLAM)

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE BEEN STRONGER THAN AKUTA-NII!

SOME SAD ADULT FANTASY OR SOME-THING?

PON (THMP)

OHH!

SO IT'S NOT A LIE, IT'S JUST THAT YOU GUYS ARE CAUGHT UP IN NOSTALGIA ABOUT THE PAST?

DENY-ING IT ALL...

.....

HE GOES FOR QUANTITY OVER QUALITY, SO THAT'S GOOD.

HUH? DON'T YOU MEAN CRAPPY-BUT-AWESOME?

...IS THIS REALLY THE TIME TO BE SITTING AROUND GOSSIPING?

WE JUST GOT ASSAULTED BY A BUNCH OF MYSTERIOUS SPIDERS...

HMM...

...AKUTA STILL HASN'T WOKEN UP...

BOTO (PLOP)

FURA (STAGGER)

I'M JUST GLAD I LISTENED TO SHIBA-SAN'S "WARNING"...

HOW MUCH OF MY STEW... DO YOU THINK IS GONNA GO UNEATEN?

...AND GOT ENOUGH MEDICAL-GRADE STEAM READY TO TREAT EVERYONE.

...EVERYONE'S BODIES AND GEARS ARE ALL FALLING APART...

...AND BIG SIS MIDARI IS STILL ACTING WEIRD...

OTHERWISE I'D PROBABLY BE COMPLETELY SWAMPED RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

...MAKING FAR TOO MANY COFFINS.

.....

SO...

...NOW THAT WE'VE FALLEN INTO A TRAP AND LOST OUR BEST FIGHTER...

WELL...

...SOMEONE'S DECIDED TO START "EXTERMINATING DEMONS."

HERA (GRIN)

...I GUESS THAT MEANS I'M TAKING COMMAND OF THE JACKALOPES.

OHH...

SHIBA-SAN'S BACK!

GATA (CLATTER)

WHA ...?

BEEP

KATA (CLACK)

KATA

...What should we do, Shiba-san...?

Spider at point two-eight-three-three-four!!

.....!

AT A TIME LIKE THIS...?

WE DON'T HAVE THE MEN TO DEAL WITH SOME LOWLY SPIIIIDER.

HNNGH!

...WE'RE ON BREAK!

...WAIT!

WHY'RE WE ON BREAK?

IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF THE SPIDERS, THEY'LL BE OUT ATTACKING PEOPLE.

Click.

Click.

THAT DESERVES PUNISH-MENT.

IF WE NEED TO FILL THE HOLE LEFT BY AKUTA-NII, I'LL DO IT.

.....

...MUST BE NICE TO BE SO YOUNG.

...OH?

BOSO (MUMBLE)

...THEN I GUESS WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT YOUTH IN MAKING OUR NEXT MOVE.

HYURUN (FWOOSH)

!?

HUH?

DON (TA-DAA)

PASTA SHACKLES.

(*SUPER AL DENTE.)

...DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY WENT AFTER AKUTA?

BECAUSE HE'S NOT GREEN LIKE YOU TWO.

GICHICHI (TLIG)

GICHI

WITH HIM!?

WHAA!?

SCREW THAT, OLD MAN!!

IF YOU TWO CAN FIGHT WITH THOSE ON, YOU CAN GO RIIIGHT AHEAD.

POINT 28334

Hair salon

Menu
Cut
Color
Perm
Point·2300
S···2000
M···3500
L···6000
Styling

KYAA!

AH!

HAIR ...!

YOU SHOULD TRY LEARNING SOME TEAMWORK BEFORE YOU SPOUT OFF LIKE THAT.

AND YOU LITTLE GREEN BRATS CAN JUST CALL ME "MASTER SHIBA"!

ALSO, BE BACK BY DINNER TIME.

GASSHAN (CRASH)

WANNA SHRED IT...!

PIKI

M-M-M-MORE!

I WANNA CUT MORE HAIR!

BIKI (KRRK)

!?

SHAKIN (SNIIIP)

CUT HAIR ...!

HAFF!

BORO

I HAVE A PROSTHETIC LEG HERE!

IT MAKES MY STRIDE LONGER, YOU KNOW!

BORO (BATTERED)

HAFF!

...I TOLD YOU!

WE HAVE TO RUN IN SYNC! RIGHT, LEFT!

SHUT UP!!!

BUMP!

WAH HA HA!

...YOUR GEARS WORKED AGAINST EACH OTHER, AND YOU HAD A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT?

SO...

IT'S GONNA BE A LOOONG ROAD!

...I CAN'T MOVE...!

IS THIS... SHIBA'S POWER...!?

BUTSU (MUTTER)

BUTSU

...MY BIG-GEST PROB-LEM...

...WAS TEAMING UP WITH YOU.

...HEY, YOU'RE BEING REAL QUIET, KOTOHARU.

...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S JUST THAT YOUR LEGS FELL ASLEEP?

HEY, HEY, WHY?

THOSE SILLY BLACK DEMONS ARE TOTALLY WRECKED RIGHT NOW, HUH?

ISN'T THIS OUR CHANCE TO TAKE THEM OUT?

SO WHY ARE WE JUST LYING AROUND?

Sweet TIME

AFTER ALL, IT WOULD HARDLY BE SATISFYING TO KILL THEM RIGHT AWAY.

WE'RE GOING TO FILL THEM SO FULL OF FEAR THAT THEY'LL WET THEMSELVES AT THE SOUND OF AN ANT APPROACHING.

IT'S OBSERVATION TIME.

SELECTING YOUR CARDS CAREFULLY IS IMPORTANT, YOU KNOW.

KURU (TURN)

HOW SO!?

SHE'S THE QUEEN OF SADISTS! WE'RE TALKING MENGELE LEVELS HERE!

JUST LOOK AT THIS!

DORO (OOZE)

HOly.

...YOU AND CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA REALLY GET ON WELL, DON'CHA...

...MIKURO?

NOTE: MENGELE WAS A NAZI DOCTOR.
HE CONDUCTED COUNTLESS UNETHICAL HUMAN EXPERIMENTS AT AUSCHWITZ.

BUT I DO THIS OUT OF LOVE.

SFX: GIRI (GRIND) GIRI GIRI GIRI...

SHE SPENT TWO WHOLE HOURS SCOLDING ME AND PINCHING ME FOR WASTING THE SPIDERS SHE LET ME BORROW!

EEEEEK!

...ISN'T THAT RIGHT...

YOU HAVE TO HAVE LOVE BEHIND YOUR PAIN AND SUFFERING.

...MII-NEECHAN...?

GUTSU (BURBLE)

GUTSU

...IS IT BAD?

ズ" ズ" ZUZU (SLURP)

YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT IT TASTES LIKE EITHER, CAN YOU?

IF YOU JUST WANNA GET YOUR-SELF DRUNK, THEN GO DRINK SOME METHANOL.

...I'M NOT HAVING ANY PROBLEMS WITH MY SENSE OF TASTE.

I JUST HAVE A FEW MEMORY ISSUES.

JACK

INCA

...DO THOSE KIDS NOT KNOW YET...

...THAT THE GEARS TAKE A TOLL ON YOUR BODY?

...WHAT MEMORY DID YOU GET BACK?

...THEN, MIDARI...

...WHAT DID YOU LOSE?

...OR RATHER ...

THEY HAVE TO LEARN FOR THEMSELVES THAT IN ORDER TO GET SOMETHING, YOU HAVE TO GIVE SOMETHING UP.

DURING THE BUST-UP THE OTHER DAY?

.....

SHIBA-CCHI...

...I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT...

...GUYS JUST AREN'T ATTRACTIVE WHEN THEY'RE TOO CLEVER.

2

...ZZZ...

ZZZ.

BROUGHT YOU A MIDNIGHT SNACK, BOYS!

AAH!?

THERE. HEAR THAAAT?

GABA CLUNCH

HOT !??

ODEN!?

GYU (TUG)

...YOU REALLY DO HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER!

AND THIS TIME...

SPIDERS ...!

BEEP!

TIME TO WOOORK!

KONNYAKU...?

NOTE: KONNYAKU IS A JELLY MADE OF A STARCHY PLANT FOR SOME TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DISHES.

POINT 70301

CROAK.

.....

CROAK.

GO RIGHT AHEAD. I ALREADY TOLD YOU. YOU GO FIRST.

イラ IRA

イラ IRA

イラ IRA (IRK)

...COME ON. YOU GO AT IT FIRST.

YOU'RE HAVING PROBLEMS, AFTER ALL.

XXXX XXXX?

XXXX XXX!

XXX XX!

POTSUN (ALONE)

CRROAK.

I SAID I'D LET YOU HAVE IT, YOU SLASHING STALKER!

SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR YOUR EVER-GENEROUS SENPAI, YOU BRAINLESS BLUNT WEAPON!

CROAK.

NO WAY. YOU GO FIRST. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EYEBROWS, AFTER ALL.

CROAK ...!

I'M FINE. YOU GO, MISTER NATURALLY CURLY HAIR!

GRRRR-
BLRRGH!

BICHAAAA
(SPLORT)

CHUN
(CHIRP)

CHUN

CHUN

That smell!

SHOO!

SHOO!

Don't you dare come in heeeere!

PUUUN

ZURU
(DRIP)

ZURU

.....

PUUUN
(BZZZ)

BUUUN

DOBABABA (FSSSHHH)

GASSHI

GASSHI (SCRUB)

DAM-MIT!

THAT BASTARD SHIBA IS WORKING US TO DEATH!

UP UNTIL JUNIOR HIGH, I THOUGHT DODGEBALL AND BASEBALL WERE GAMES YOU PLAYED ALONE.

...I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT YOUR SAD PAST.

I'VE NEVER HAD TEAMMATES OR BUDDIES BEFORE, SO I JUST DON'T GET IT.

O. I STILL REEK.

WHAT EVEN IS "TEAM-WORK"?

HUH?

...ARE THE JACKALOPES REALLY A *TEAM*?

BESIDES...

I JUST...

...WANNA CRUSH THE CHANCES OF THERE BEING MORE PEOPLE LIKE MY SISTER.

THAT'S ALL.

.....

KA-CCLACK

AND I FOUND SOME-THING.

...I LOOKED INTO THINGS, JUST AS YOU ASKED.

LET'S HURRY UP AND GET THE DETAILS.

I KNEW IT.

Hmm...

DO YOU KNOW WHO AT AMENOTORI WOULD BE LIKELY TO GO DEMON HUNTING?

DOC.

And on closer inspection, the clothes too.

There were tags on the bodies of the dead Spiders.

...Probably my sister.

...THEY WERE PROBABLY MY SISTER'S EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS.

...I figured. But...

...THE MAIN PERPETRATOR BEHIND THIS ATTACK FITS A DIFFERENT PROFILE.

HUH?

TON (TAP)

I'LL LEAVE THE PHYSICAL STUFF AND THE REALLY HAAARD WORK...

...TO THE *KIDS*.

ONLY PERCEPTION AND INTUITION REALLY WORK FOR OLD MEN.

DADA (DASH)

MY YOUTH!

CURSE MY DAMNED YOUTH...!

...JUST US AGAIN!?

AWWW...

IT'S THOSE TWO AGAIN!?

GYAA (SQUABBLE) GYAA

HMM...

HEY, HEY!

I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE!

I'M BORED JUST SITTING HERE!

MIGHT AS WELL MAKE A MOVE.

PORI (MUNCH)

I'VE BEEN USING UP LOTS AND LOTS OF SPIDERS...

...TO TRY AND MONITOR THE BLACK DEMONS, AND YET...

LET'S START BY KILLING THIS STUPID DOUBLE ACT, OKAY?

POINT 11203

THERE'S NO SPIDER.

?

...THAT SHOULD BE WHERE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO SHOW UP...

Supposed to?

OH.

WELL...

I DON'T SEE A THING...

DON
(FWOOM)

WHEN DID IT ATTACK US!?

WHEN DID THAT GET HERE!?

!?

.....

KLII (FLICK)

IDIOT, STOP IT...!

KOFF!

BIN (TWANG)

DAM-MIT...!


LO
PI
(TAP)
PITA
(STOP)

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS SPIDER!?

Clack.

...YOUKOU.

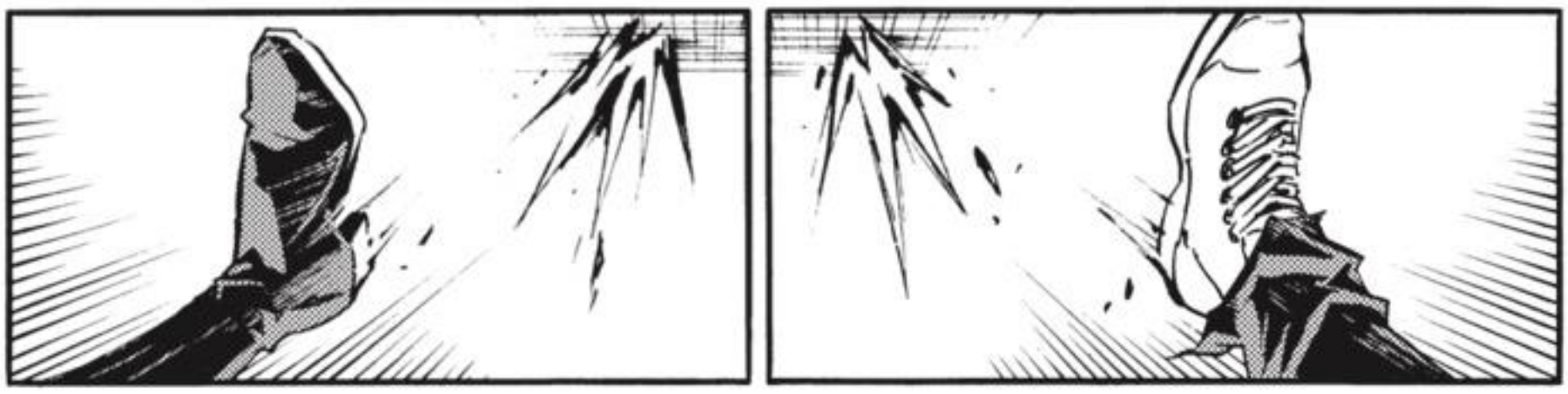
DON'T SAY WHAT I WAS THINKING BEFORE I GET THE CHANCE.

Click.

I WANNA DISSOLVE OUR PARTNER-SHIP.

...KOTO-HARU.








DON
(FWOOSH)

LOOK BACK!

I'LL GAUGE WHERE HE'S LOOKING AND...

!

IT'S BARELY MOVING. ...IT CAN'T MOVE.

I'LL USE ITS CENTER OF GRAVITY AND...

...END YOU!

...CUT YOU!

GYLIN (FWOOSH)

...THEN, MY NEXT MOVE WILL BE...

TCH.

POINT TWO SECONDS LATE...

DON (WHAM)

...AND I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT PUTTING THIS TOGETHER TOO!

MY ELEPHANT'S ALL RUINED.

WOW! YOU MADE THAT YOURSELF?

WAIT, NO! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU BOYS.

I WANTED TO GET A FEEL FOR WHAT YOU'RE LIKE AND HOW YOU FIGHT.

HA!

SO YOU CAUGHT MEEE.

HUH?

...I THOUGHT SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT...

...BUT WHAT IS THIS?

NAH, I JUST COULDN'T BE BOTHERED.

?

I WAS JUST MOVING ON MY OWN.

IT WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE.

YOU TWO FINALLY REALIZED THAT WHEN YOU'RE FORCED ONTO A TEAM, YOU BECOME A TEAM.

...OR QUESTION THEIR ABILITIES.

...YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT...

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHEN YOU SHARE THE SAME VIEWPOINT AS SOMEONE... WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING IN THE SAME DIRECTION...

LETTING TWO DIFFERENT FLAVORS SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT TOGETHER IS WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD DISH.

DANGER!

REMEMBER THAT, BOYS.

...AND...

...SORRY FOR TAKING OVER YOUR LITTLE FARCE.

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU LOT TO IDENTIFY YOURSELVES.

?

SHURU (SHHF)

BWA HA!

GUESS THEY FOUND US OUT!

WELL, YOU WERE STARING RIGHT AT THEM.

SHIKAGURA.

EIGHT-EYED FOX SPIRIT... ***FURY!***

HI!♡

THE EIGHT-EYED SERPENT... ***OLD MAN MAJIMA!***

...THAT'S ME!

THOSE TWO ARE SPIDERS!?

"EIGHT-EYED"...?

THAT FORE-HEAD...

!?

HMM?

SO THOSE TWO HIDING ABOUT A KILO-METER AWAY AREN'T GONNA INTRODUCE THEMSELVES?

KOKI (CRACK)

PIKI (KRICK)

GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KILL YOU!

PIKI

BIKI (KRAK)

...WHOA, REALLY?

YOU'RE STILL WAY TOO SHARP, AS EVER.

...!



DOOKIKIN
(FWOOOOM)

.....

OLD MAN...!

NGH ...!

I'M THE FORMER CAPTAIN OF THE JACKALOPES' VANGUARD...

...I'M NO OLD MAAAN.

.....!

PLEASED TO MEET YOUUU.

...AND CURRENT COOK AND BARTENDER, SHIBA.

Okay.

X: 2234,
Y: 4583,
Z: 9055.

GIVE ME ITS CURRENT LOCATION.

WH-WHY? HOW?

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!?

GIVE US SOME ORDERS...!

PI (FWIP)

AND YOU IN THERE, YOU LISTENING TOO?

I said, pleased to meet you...

...little puppet master watching from your special seat.

You're a theatrical sadist...

...Is it that you're just that hideous?

Or maybe you're a tiny thing that never hit puberty?

Do you get off obsessing over Midari?

Scopo-philia?

Erotophono-philia?

"Shikagura," huh? Sounds like the name of a ramen shop that's about to go under.

You dark, twisted little shit who's still sucking off his mommy's tit.

.....!

EVERY-ONE...!

GIRI (GRIND)

E—

FALL BACK...!

FU (FWOOSH)

ALL OF THE SIGNALS WE DETECTED...

...HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SHUT DOWN!

Hm.

THE MISSION WAS A SUCCESS.

HEY!

DID YOU USE THE TWO OF US AS BAIT?

OLD MA... I MEAN, MASTER SHIBA.

HMM.

BACHIN (CRUNCH)

...SEE YOU.

BUT I GUESS THEY WEREN'T THAAAT STUPID.

PITY.

I WANTED TO PINPOINT THE LINES THEY HAD SCATTERED AROUND TO MONITOR THE JACKALOPES.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN BETTER IF WE'D BEEN ABLE TO HACK THEM.

I FIGURED SOMEONE WHO'D COME UP WITH SUCH A NASTY PLOT LIKE THAT ONE...

...WOULD ONLY MAKE A MOVE ONCE THEY HAD AN INFORMATION NETWORK.

...AMAZING...?

...HE REALLY IS...

...COULD IT BE...

...THIS OLD MAN...?

YOU CAN EAT THAT, YOU KNOW.

IT'S SOY-SAUCE FLAVORED.

みょ～ん

MYOON (DROOP)

GET THIS SOBA OFF OF US!

...BUT FORGET THAT!

...HA.

GIGI (CLENCH)

...KILL!

KILL, KILL...!

HAH!

HFF!

HA!

HA AH HA HA ...!

AH HA!

HOW SHOULD I KILL HIM?

I'M SO EXCITED...!

HUMAN-SHAPED SPIDERS... WHO AREN'T TOOOTALLY OFF THEIR ROCKERS, HUH?

...I COULDN'T AVOID USING MY GEARS.

.....

...HAAH.

MEN

.....

ZLI
(THUD)

...I'M GONNA HAVE TO HURRY.

BOTA
(DRIP)

AHHH... MY BACK HURTS.

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD
IS DEAD,
THE PARADE WILL
START.

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

#09

P1
(BEEP)

OH, HOW WONDERFUL.

YOUR URIC ACID LEVELS AND LOW BLOOD SUGAR HAVE EVENED OUT...

...AND YOU HAVE PLENTY OF MUSCLE.

THESE NUMBERS WILL PASS EASILY.

SHIPPING

YES

NO

PI (BEEP)

to

09

RIGHT OR WRONG

HELLO THERE, METAL MAN.

HERE'S YOUR DELIVERY FOR THIS WEEK.

魚

APRON: FISH

HEH HEH!

FIFTY RED BEERS, FORTY KILOS OF MEAT BLOCKS, VARIOUS OTHER THINGS.

STILL, YOU ORDERED SURPRISINGLY GOOD STUFF THIS TIME, DIDN'T YOU?

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO STIFF ME AGAIN, I'M GOING TO LICK YOU ALL OVER, YOU KNOW.

I'LL PAY, I'LL PAY!

REALLY, DON'T.

DID I?

DON'T USE THEM FOR ANYTHING BUT COOKING, OKAY?

...HEY.

THOSE ARMS OF YOURS...

YOU'RE A GOOD WOMAN.

...THANKS, GRANDMA.

KATA

KATA

KATA

KATA (CLACKA)

KATA

KATA

BLIP!

BLIP!

BLIP!

BLIP!

AMENCTOR!

CODE:

<SICKAGGRA>

CODE:
<SICKAGGRA>

...HUMAN-SHAPED, AUTONOMOUS SPIDERS, HUH?

THEY'RE MAKING THEMSELVES SOME NASTIES, AREN'T THEY...? "SHIKAGURA"...

MAYBE IT'S WRITTEN "FOUR KAGURA," SO THERE'S FOUR OF THEM...?

We mapped fluctuations in power data with the flow of money for a few thousand transplantees.

We examined countless wiretaps and news reports.

...And as a result, we have successfully identified a facility that could be called their weak point.

NAH.

THERE WERE ATTACKS FROM FOUR DIRECTIONS...

...PLUS OUR BEHIND-THE-SCENES CONDUCTOR, SO PROOOBABLY FIVE OF THEM...

AND WE FOUND OUT SOMETHING MORE...

And what we found was...

We've hacked into a number of the facility's security cameras.

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ROUTINES.

THEY PROBABLY CAN'T SURVIVE IF THEY DON'T GET THEIR MAINTENANCE AT THE FACILITY.

UNSTABLE, UNFINISHED EXPERIMENTS...

TIME CODE 11:79:82

...THAT'S...

...WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM OUR INVESTIGATION. NOW WE SHOULD ALL THINK ABOUT WHAT WE WANT TO—

IS THEIR MISSION TO DESTROY THE JACKA-LOPES?

IF SO, THEN WE SHOULD KILL THEM BEFORE THEY KILL US.

IF THEY'RE GONNA PICK A FIGHT WITH US, WE HAVE TO FIGHT BACK.

IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER WHETHER IT'S RIGHT OR WRONG.

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY OF THEM THERE ARE OR HOW STRONG THEY ARE.

THE ONE WHO HURT AKUTA-NII...!

GIRI (GRIP)

WE FIND THE GUY WHO MESSED WITH MIDARI-NEE.

KACHI (CLICK)

WE GO TO THAT FACILITY...

AND WE CRUSH THEM!

GUH!?

SA (FWISH)

GAN (THWACK)

STOP TALKING LIKE I'VE BEEN KILLED!

HEY, KOTOHARU.

IF I LET MY GUARD DOWN, YOU'D OPERATE ON ME TO GIVE ME SOME WEIRD NEW MODS, SO IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD JUST RELAX!

HEY!

AKUTA!?

DID YOU TURN OFF THE SEDATIVE GAS AGAIN!?

...AKUTA.

HUH? BUT DON'T YOU WANT A COUPLE EXTRA RIBS?

ONES THAT COULD SERVE AS AN EXO-SKELETON IN A PINCH!

.....

NO WAY.

YOU SHOULD GO GET SOME MORE REST.

...THEN I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT.

...YOU GUYS REEEALLY LIKE PUSHING IT, DON'T YOU?

OPERATION...

OPERATION: EXTERMINATE THE SHIKAGURA.

XII
IX
III
IT'S COOKING TIME, YOU BASTARDS!
YEAH!
.....

CLEAR

P.
P.

...HEY.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE, AREN'T YOU...

...OLD BUDDY?

HEY, YOU BASTARD!

...JUST GIVE IT TO ME.
IT'S NOT GONNA HURT YOU!

WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?

HA...

THE FACILITY IS IN DISTRICT ELEVEN OF GROUND RED, THE SPECIAL STRUCTURAL REFORM AREA. ...DEEP INSIDE THERE.

AT THE DESIGNATED TIME...

AT 14:30— A SPECIAL POLICE VAN WILL ARRIVE.

KII (SCREECH)

BATAN (SHUT)

AND SHIKAGURA
WILL MAKE THEIR
APPEARANCE.

EACH TEAM WILL ACT INDEPENDENTLY AFTER SECURING ASSIGNED KEY POINTS.

SIGN: CAUTION

小心车

HMM?

I HEARD IT'S THE ONLY EXTERNALLY CONTROLLED FACTORY THAT AMENOTORI DOES BUSINESS WITH...

HEY, SO WHAT SORT OF FACILITY IS THIS ANYWAY?

YOU IDIOT!

WELL, I'M NOT SUPER GREAT AT READING.

?

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

DID YOU NOT READ THE BRIEFINGS!?

...Okay, everyone on second shift!

PANPARAPAAN (DING-A-LING)

Ready for your warmup exercises?

Let's all work hard again today. For the world, for humanity, for yourselves!

One, two!

Aaand three, four!

Today's Schedule

Special Maintenance

TEAM A, YOU TRAP SHIKAGURA, THE MAIN DISH, INSIDE THE FACILITY.

THE BARRICADE SYSTEM IS ON THE BACK OF THE MEZZANINE, IN THE CENTRAL OPERATIONS ROOM.

SIGN: CENTRAL OPERATIONS ROOM, AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

中央管理室
授权人员ONLY

...THIS IS BAD. THERE'S SOMEONE IN THERE.

WANT TO REGROUP FOR NOW?

.....

...

...YES.

THINGS ARE GOING JUST FINE, THANKS TO YOU.

管理責任者

NAMETAG: CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

GUGU (PUSH)

GYUU (SHOVE)

?

THAT'S PUNISHMENT FOR BEING AN IDIOT WHO DOESN'T READ THE BRIEFINGS.

YOUKOU, YOU STAY BACK.

大食堂 G-1

OH, THE BREAKDOWN OF TODAY'S MATERIALS?

...STILL, THAT SPECIAL MAINTENANCE CREATES A BIT OF A CHALLENGE.

NO, I HONESTLY DON'T CARE WHAT IT ACTUALLY ENTAILS.

...FORTY-SIX MONGOLOIDS... NO.

ONE WAS MALNOURISHED, SO I GUESS IT WAS FORTY-FIVE.

THE BREAKDOWN OF MATERIALS USED TODAY IS TWENTY-TWO WHITES, EIGHTEEN BLACKS...

CLEANING B-1

KNOCKING A-6

...YES, OF COURSE. WE ARE BEING COMPENSATED FOR OUR LOSSES, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH THAT...

PACKING C-4

DISMEMBERMENT ①

WE WERE ABLE TO GATHER ALL OF THE ORGANS REQUESTED, BUT...



GOUN

GOUN CTHUNK

AHH, THIS IS CREEPY.

...Still not done, Team A?

Once you hit the switch, you're on standby, you know.

THEY ARE NOT THE ENEMY.

...THE FACTORY WORKERS ARE NOT INVOLVED, AND THE ADMINISTRATOR IS INDIFFER-ENT.

GOUN

WELL, RUMOR HAS IT, THEY'RE NOT.

C24

C23

YEAH, YOU GET USED TO IT...

BUT THESE ARE JUST CLONED, RIGHT?

GOUN (THUNK)

GOUN

THEN WHY DON'T THE TRANSPLANTS EVER GET REJECTED?

BLACK MAGIC OR SOME-THING?

...BUT THEY SAY THE COMPANY USES DEAD BODIES, WAR ORPHANS, AND SLAVES FROM ALL OVER TOO.

THEY'RE ALL CLEANED UP ANYWAY, SO IT COULD BE ANYTHING...

THE PAY'S THE SAME NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK, YOU KNOW.

中央管理室
授权人员ONL

THE KEY TO GETTING BY IS JUST TO NOT THINK ABOUT ANYTHING.

SIGN: CENTRAL OPERATIONS ROOM, AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

GAGA (RATTLE)

GOLIN

DOSA (THUMP)

GON

HUH?

MMPH!

...!

UNGH.

MNH!

URGH!

HUH?

WHOA!

TH-THE FOREMAN!?

GOUN (THUNK)

THINK!

GOUN

WORRY!

GET MAD!

GOUN

DON'T GET USED TO IT!

DON'T LET IT SLIDE!

三號

Click!

...IF YOU CAN LIVE WITH IGNORING STUFF LIKE THIS...

...THAT MAKES YOU LESS THAN EVEN THE MONSTERS!

DOKAA
GBOOM

WAAA (CLAMOR)

.....

VI

...TEAM A IS DEFINITELY NOT ON STANDBY.

...THAT BUNCH OF SUICIDAL IDIOTS...

MMBL...

THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO LET HIM SEE THE TRUTH BEHIND AMENOTORI...

THE FACTORY WORKERS AREN'T RUNNING AWAY?

WHAT'S WITH THOSE PAJAMAS, ANYWAY?

WELL, YOU WERE PRETTY INTO IT TOO, YOU KNOW.

I WAS NOT!

MOGOO (MASH)

LOOK! JUST LOOK AT WHERE YOUR FOOT IS!

...HONESTLY, LOSING SIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVE IN YOUR RAGE.

YOU'RE SUCH A CHILD.

...Heyyy, c'monnn!

You liar! You're an adult, so you have to stop them, you dumbass!

I DIDN'T SHOOT ANY-THING!

I'M NOT GONNA APOLOGIZE. IT WASN'T ME! IT WAS RED WHO DECIDED TO GO BERSERK!

Youkou's just like you used to be!

He completely ruined the plaaan!

HA!

WE'LL MAKE IT WORK SOMEHOW.

Welllll... I did come up with a few different ways to do this...

AND THE SCENARIO I WAS MOST FRIGHTENED OF WAS *YOU GOING BERSERK.*

You know that all of Shikagura came after me at once, right?

There's no way I wouldn't have noticed it during that attack.

.....

WHY?

SHELL FANG "GAGARA," THE ROSARIO GEAR.

Which means that he's a *Spider* with a mind who has intel on us.

...but he's... a former *Jackalope.*

I dunno how he's still alive...

.....

THE WORST, MOST POWERFUL HYBRID EVER, HUH?

HA!

AKUTA...

...IT'S ALL GOOD.

SHOOT ME.

WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?

HA.

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF.

I'LL BUTCHER YOU AGAIN.

I'M LITTLE, SO... "I WANNA GET BIG!"

LOOK, LOOK, MOMMY, DADDY!

ONCE I GET BIG, I'M SURE WE CAN ALL GET ALONG, AND NO ONE WILL MAKE FUN OF ANYONE ANYMORE.

"I LOVE COOKING!"

YUMMY

I CAN EVEN GO SHOPPING!

TWINS

SIAMESE TWINS

SHARING A BODY'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT... "IT'S OKAY TO WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT AND DO WHATEVER WE WANT, RIGHT? MROW?"

"I LOVE GOLD!"

I'M NOT YAMADA, OINK! I'M YARMIDER-SAMA, OINK~!

A PIGGY BANK IS A GOLDEN PIG, YOU KNOW!

MOOO!

MOO!

"IF I GET MACHO, I'LL BE POPULAR!"

"I'M GONNA GO SOLO AND BE MY OWN BOSS!"

PRACTICE! PRACTICE!

HUH, 2 CM...? SURE YOU DON'T WANT A LITTLE MORE OF A DRASTIC CUT? OH, YES...I GUESS SO. HA-HA-HA.

{ILLUSTRATED SPIDER ENCYCLOPEDIA}



To be continued in *Smokin' Parade*, Volume ③

SMOKIN' PARADE #02

BY JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

3

SMOKIN' PARADE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

WE ARE CALLED "SHIKAGURA."

...AND OUR FAMILY HAS UNDERGONE SPECIAL TRAINING TO ENSURE WE DON'T LOSE OURSELVES WHEN WE USE THEM.

OUR SPIDER POWERS ARE A BYPRODUCT OF AMENOTORI'S TRANSPLANT TECHNOLOGY...

OUR FIRST MISSION WAS TO TAKE DOWN THE JACKALOPES, A GROUP OF SPIDER EXTERMINATORS. THAT IS HOW WE ARE TO LIVE.



SMOKIN' PARADE

10

A BAD JOKE

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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SMOKIN' PARADE

CHARACTERS

AKUTA

A Jackalope who has taken a liking to Youkou because he sees himself in the kid. A heavy smoker with a sweet tooth.

YOUKOU KAKUJOU

A boy who lost both arms and his right leg when his younger sister turned into a Spider. He has replaced one missing arm with a Gear and joined the Jackalopes.

KOTOHARU

A member of the Jackalopes. He has an incredible amount of respect for Akuta and keeps a collection of items related to him.





AMENOTORI

Amenotori, the revolutionary medical company that has made it possible to transplant any human part. This individual appears to have some connection to the company...?



MIDARI



SHIKAGURA

A gang of Spiders that Kurama has sent after the Jackalopes.



MATSUGO



DOC

BAGIN (CRACK)

GO (WHAM)

WHAA!?

YOU'RE TRYING TO PUT ONE OVER ON ME, AREN'T YOU!?

GOBON (SPLOOSH)

WHADDAYA MEAN, THERE'S A SALE TAX!?

GAN (STOMP)

—OH, YOU'RE AWAKE!

GHK!

—TWO YEARS AGO, AMENOTORI SPIDER EXPERIMENTATION ROOM 04

kFF!

YOU OKAY, MIKURO-KUN!?

...?

UP HERE!

YOU'RE REALLY LUCKY MY FILTHY BLOOD DIDN'T GET ALL OVER YOU.

...

DOESN'T THAT HURT?

...SO THERE ARE STILL OTHERS ALIVE AS WELL?

I THINK I'M GONNA DIE!

IT HURTS LIKE HELL!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BRAVADO!

BUT IF I SHOW PAIN WHEN I'M REALLY HURTING, THAT ISN'T REALLY ACTING, NOW, IS IT?

I'M FURY!

I CAME UP WITH THAT MYSELF.

I CAME UP WITH "MIKURO" TOO!

IT'S BECAUSE THAT BLACK BLOOD COMING OUT OF YOUR ASS LOOKS LIKE A THIRD LEG!

SO "MIKURO," WRITTEN ***"THREE"*** AND ***"BLACK"***! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

INTEREST-
ING...

Y'KNOW,
YOU'RE
NOT "FILTHY"
AT ALL.

.....

HUH?

DON'T
CRY,
FURY.

WHA...? GAGARA!

STOP IT WITH THE SAPPY LINES!

YOU'RE MAKING IT SO I HAVE TO ACT SAD!

I CAN'T WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS, AFTER ALL.

AND I DON'T KNOW...

...HOW TO ACT SAD.

DON'T BECOME RESIGNED TO YOUR OWN DEATH.

YOU ALSO BECAME A SPIDER AND WERE TAKEN IN, SO YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND.

...YOU CAN JUST BE HONEST.

YOU TOO, YOUNG MAN.

SIMPLY ACCEPT YOUR DESIRE AND YOUR EMOTIONS.

DO NOT DIE IN GLOOM.

LIVE WITH EXCITEMENT.

YEAH.

PRESENT DAY

AMENOTORI MANUFACTURING FACILITY, B TOWER

PACHIN (CLICK)

10%

—THAT IS WHY WE LIVE.

PI (BLINK)

ZUZUN (BOOM)

BIRIRIRI

GACHA (KACHAK)

KOFF!

B-BAD NEWS!

KFF!

INTRUDERS ARE COMING DOWN THE FACTORY SHIPPING LANES!

SHIKAGURA-SAMA...

BIRIRIRI (BRRRING)

BUN (FWOOM)

INTRUDERS?

THE JACKALOPES...!

IF THEY TAKE DOWN THE MAINTENANCE SYSTEM—

ISN'T THIS BAD?

NEW GIRL! WAKE UP! GET MOVING!

OH NO!

...WAS IT LEAKED THAT WE'RE UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE HERE...!?

JIIII (WHRRR)

!

THOSE COWARDLY DEMONS! THEY WON'T GET AWAY!

NOT FROM SHIKAGURA!

BISHI (FWISH)

OUR LIFELINE...

PUTSUN (BLACK)

ツ。ン。。

OKAY, CUT!

ONE KILOMETER OUTSIDE THE AMENOTORI MANUFACTURING FACILITY

...THEY'RE GONNA CATCH ON TO US.

BUT...

We've lost our feed from inside the facility!

Re-hacking.

THE CLOCK ROCK COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

THEY GAVE US QUITE A WELCOME, AFTER ALL.

THE SHIKAGURA AREN'T DONE WITH THEIR MAINTENANCE YET, SO NOW IS OUR CHANCE!

RESUME OPERATIONS!

ATTENTION, ALL JACKALOPES ON ALL TEAMS!

PI (BEEP)

PI

PI

PI

ABNORMALITY DETECTED

異常 ABNORMALITYabnormality

GAGO (CLUNK)

BOSHUU (PSSHH)

SECURITY SYSTEM ENGAGED

OPERATION LEVEL MAX

MAXIMUM INTRUDER RESPONSE PT-01-54

PI

PI

PI

TURN YOUR GEARS!

CURITY SYSTEM
σ-091 ~ 140
Engaged: Limit release
weapon···1 ~ 3 Release
BRRRR
KOOOM
ECURITY SYSTE
α-152 ~ 18
Engaged: Limit r
weapon··· Release

POINT
C-0179

POINT
B-6711

POINT F-601

BO (FWOOSH)

GA (YANK)

MIDARI-NEE!

!

BAKYA (SHOONK)

.....

SORRY.

I JUST... CAN'T CONCENTRATE.

...HEY, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO MIDARI?

SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT THE ENTIRE TIME.

I DON'T KNOW...WHAT THE SHIKAGURA DID TO YOU BACK THERE...

...IT'S ALL RIGHT.

...BUT I'LL HELP YOU, BIG SIS MIDARI.

THAT'S RIGHT. I...

.....

YEAH.

...PROMISED **HIM** THE SAME THING.

Route B 6711 secure!

Route C 0179 secure!

—Secure!

—Secure!

Defense system α-110— Offline.

θ-2219— Offline.

β-096— Offline.

—Offline.

—Offline.

PI (BEEP)

GAGAGA (KRZZT)

...ALL RIGHT.

IT'S GOING...

...WELL, RIGHT?

...JUST FINE, RIGHT?

GAGAN (BLAM)

BO (BOOM)

BO

...WELL?

IF HE— THAT IS...IF SHIKAGURA'S HERE, THEY SHOULDN'T BE FAR, RIGHT?

POINT Q-001, MAINTENANCE ROOM

F5 KEEP OUT

!?

PUSHU (PSSHH)

THE DOORS JUST OPENED...!?



AMENOTORI MANUFACTURING FACILITY SECOND BASEMENT, POINT 0092

DONE SETTING HERE TOOOO!

DONE SETTING NUMBER TWENTY-TWO.

?

POINT Q-001, MAINTENANCE ROOM

...SHE'S NOT...

...SHIKA-GURA?

...FAKE BOOBS?

THOSE AREN'T...

WHO'S THAT?

I SAW HER IN THE BRIEFING!

ん?

PI (BEEP)

JAKA (SSSHK)

...!! THAT WOMAN...

AMENOTORI GENERAL DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT—

CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA.

Huh!?

She's a big deal!!

KURAMA...!?

I'D HOPED THE SECURITY ROBOTS WOULD STOP YOU, SO I COULD FINISH UP MY WORK EARLY.

...YOU BLACK DEMONS—"JACKALOPES," RIGHT?—ARE MORE SKILLED THAN I EXPECTED.

...!

WORK...?

...WELL, THIS REGULAR MAINTENANCE IS THEIR LIFELINE, AFTER ALL.

SO THEY'RE ALL LINED UP RIGHT THERE?

OH.

MY DEAR SHIKAGURA.

.....

THE SHIKAGURA AND THE BRAINS OF AMENOTORI BOTH, HUH?

THIS IS REALLY GOOD FOR US... ISN'T IT?

SHIKAGURA!?

THE MAINTENANCE ROOM!

WE'RE HEADED THERE!

TURN YOUR GEARS!!

OH? SHE DODGED IT.

HMM?

WHAT THE HELL? THAT SCARED ME!!

HEY!?

BLAM!

KYAA!?

WAIT, WAIT!

WE'RE JUST STARTING THE IMPORTANT TALKS!

SO I FIGURED I'D JUST SHOOT YA.

WELL, YOU'RE...YOU KNOW, A BOSS-TYPE FROM AMENOTORI, RIGHT?

SO, WHY DON'T YOU BLACK DEMONS JUST CALL YOUR LEADER IN HERE?

LET'S MAKE A DEAL.

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE INFORMATION I HAVE IN MY BRAIN.

AND IN EXCHANGE, YOU SPARE MY SHIKAGURA'S LIVES, OKAY?

How much!? How much is that worth!?

Whoa!

AN ACCENT?

INSIDE INFORMATION ON AMENOTORI ...!?

THAT'S...

...A DEAL WORTHY OF A THREE-STAR RESTAURANT.

ZA
CZSHD

ZA
ZA

...OH?
WE'VE
GATHERED
QUITE THE
CROWD.

ONE,
TWO...

NO
OLD MAN
YET?

...HAVE
CARRIED OUT, NOT
LEAST OF WHICH
IS CREATING THE
SHIKAGURA, THEY
CANNOT FORGIVE
YOU.

WITH ALL THE
UNSCRUPULOUS
DEEDS THAT YOU,
AMENOTORI...

...WHAT
REASON DO
YOU HAVE FOR
PUTTING YOUR
LIFE ON THE
LINE?

KA

THE LOOSE BONDS OF A MOTLEY CREW.

KA (TAKK)

SO BASICALLY, YOU'RE OUT FOR REVENGE.

MOST OF YOU BLACK DEMONS ARE SPIDER VICTIMS, RIGHT?

BUT MY SHIKAGURA, BORN OF SPECIAL TRAINING, ARE BEAUTIFUL.

SPIDERS ARE A SIMPLE LOT, DRIVEN ONLY BY THEIR DESIRES.

...THEY ARE LIKE THE LIGHTS ON THE FISHING BOAT FROM THAT NIGHT.

THEY ARE FAMILY.

...?

To give my life for true family is—

BLIN (FWOOM)

GASHA (CRUNCH)

WHA—?

POINT 770,
FACTORY STAFF
WAREHOUSE

YOU...DIDN'T GO TO THE MAINTENANCE ROOM?

THIS WAS JUST *TOOOO TEMPTING.*

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, PIPSQUEAK.

BAKIN
(KACHAK)

YOU TOTALLY FELL FOR IT.

WE *DELIBERATELY* LEFT FIVE DEAD SPOTS IN THE SECURITY CAMERAS.

SO CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA AND HER DEAL ARE LIES, RIGHT?

SINCE YOU'RE HERE, PIPSQUEAK, THAT MEANS THEY'RE ALL FAKES.

BY THE WAY, IT'S TRUE THAT I CAN KILL YOU IMMEDIATELY WITH MY GEARS.

HOW ABOUT YOU AND I GET STARTED...

...ON THE REAL DEAL?

CHANGE OF PLANS.

THIS OLD MAN'S WAY MORE...

PI (BEEP)

DO YOU READ ME?

.....

...WE UNDER-ESTIMATED HIM...!

POINT Q-001, MAINTENANCE ROOM

HUH?

HE'S NOT?

Shiba's not coming there...

KACHI (CLICK)

...OH.

GON (THUNK)

!?

GACHAN (THUNK)

THE DOOR...!?

...WHAT THE?

GASHA (KACLACK)

PU (BOOP)

LOST NUMBER-SELECT

LOST

LOST

!?

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

I CAN'T REACH THEM!

WE LOST THE SIGNAL!!?

...HAVE THIS MANY GUESTS, IT'S ALL GOOD.♡

WELL, AS LONG AS I...

YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED US, OLD MAN.

I NEVER EXPECTED...

...YOU'D ONLY THINK IT OUT THIS FAR. YOU'RE EVEN MORE OF AN IDIOT THAN I THOUGHT.

SHURU (FWIRL)

BWA HA!♥

YOU FOOLISH BLACK DEMONS, FALLING FOR MY BAIT HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

IT WAS ALL, ALL A LIE!!

END

DEL

IF SHE WERE THE TYPE TO SHOOT HERSELF IN THE HEAD TO PROTECT US, SHE'D HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE A HUNDRED TRILLION TIMES OVER!

LIKE THAT SADISTIC BITCH QUEEN WOULD EVER COME OUT TO THIS FACTORY IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!

AND THOSE WERE ALL JUST MODELS TOO, OF COURSE!

THIS FACTORY'S PERFECT FOR PIECING TOGETHER BODY DOUBLES, AFTER ALL.

HEY, HEY!

GUGU (STRAIN)

THE SHIKA-GURA WOMAN ...?

!?

GIRIRI (TIGHT)

WHAT THE...?

I CAN'T MOVE!?

!?

DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT MY POWER WAS TRANSFOR-MATION?

YOU'RE SOOO WRONG!

MY POWER IS TO TAKE A FIBROUS FORM!

HEY, HEY...

...MY ACTING WAS PRETTY GOOD, WASN'T IT!?

<FURY LIND> ARTYPE SPIDER
THE THREAD-SPINNING FOX

SO?

THIS OLD MAN'S A WORRIER, SO WE TOOK HOSTAGES.

!?

...HUH?

I SAID WE SHOULD MAKE A DEAL, YOU KNOW.

YOUR LIFELINE...

...THE SHIKAGURA MAINTENANCE SYSTEM. WE SET UP A WHOLE BUNCH OF BOMBS IN THE BASEMENT TO TURN IT INTO ONE BIG BARBECUE!☆

YOUR CHOICE, PIPSQUEAK. DEATH OR DEFEAT?

THAT'S... YOUR TRUMP CARD?

HAAH... WHAT TO DO...?

...AHH.

BOKO

!?

BOKO (BLOOP)

...SORRY, OLD MAN.

I HAD NO IDEA THESE WERE SUCH IMPORTANT TRUMP CARDS!

<KUROMI> ARTYPE SPIDER

THE THREE-LEGGED CROW THAT EATS ANYTHING

I...

...TOLD YOU...

...DIDN'T I?

IT WAS ALLLL A LIE.

FIRST WE SPLIT UP THE INFORMATION ABOUT US LIKE A PUZZLE...

...THEN WE SPREAD IT AROUND, LEAVING IT ONLY *JUST* HIDDEN, TO MAKE IT LOOK RANDOM.

WE CREATED A FALSE IMAGE BY SHOWING VITAMIN SHOTS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

WE ***DELIBERATELY*** FILMED OURSELVES PANICKING IN FRONT OF THE SECURITY CAMERAS.

OKAY, CUT!

...AND PREPARED THE PERFECT GRAVE FOR YOU BLACK DEMONS.

WE DID OUR BEST BIT BY BIT TO INVITE YOU HERE...

IF WE WERE THAT WEAK, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE MADE IT THROUGH OUR TRAINING!

BOKO (BLOOP)

BOGOKO

REGULAR MAINTE-NANCE?

WE DON'T NEED THAT!

GOTON (THUD)

JUST WHAT DID YOU THINK THE SHIKAGURA WERE?

WE'RE MONSTERS!

THEY EVEN LET US HACK THEIR COMMS.

DAM-MIT...

PI (BIP)

ZA (KRZT)

GA (KRK) ZAZA

GAN (GRAB)

...!

HEY, ANYONE THERE!!?

THEIR AIM HAS BEEN—!

THEIR WAY OF THINKING IS EVEN MORE MESSED UP THAN I THOUGHT.

WE'RE NOT LIKE YOU DEMONS, YOU KNOW.

GO AHEAD AND CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT THERE IN YOUR HEAD.

A "DEAL," RIGHT?

A.K. CHI CTICK

A.K. CHI

AND *THOSE STRANDS ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTING THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE OF THAT ROOM.*

THERE ARE DOZENS OF BLACK DEMONS CAUGHT UP IN FURY'S WEB RIGHT NOW.

THE ONLY TRUE FAMILY IS ONE BONDED BY EXPOSING THEIR BLOOD, FECES, AND GUTS TO EACH OTHER.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU BLACK DEMONS' FAKE LITTLE BUDDY-BUDDY ACT TO END.

PUTSUN (SNAP)

...TO TAKE DOWN THEIR ENE-MIES WITH THEM ...!

FROM THE START, THEIR AIM HAS BEEN ...

KACHI CTICK

CHOOSE!

DO YOU KILL ME WITH YOUR OWN BLACK HANDS? OR DO YOU GO SAVE YOUR DEMONS?

ZUN (FWOOM)

.....

...SO I DIDN'T GET TO FULFILL MY DESIRE.

HEY, NEW GIRL!

I HATE DARK PLACES LIKE THAT BASEMENT.

HMPH.

ZUZUN (BOOM)

FIX YOURSELF!

AND YOUR HAIR'S A MESS!

YOU STILL HAVE DEMON GUTS ON YOUR FEET.

OH...

DA
(DASH)

...

...GONE.

IT'S...

WHERE...!?

WHERE... IS IT!?

ZU

ZU (THUD)

DON'T GO BACK IN THERE!!

HEY!

WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS!?

YOU CAN TALK!?

ZU

BARA (FWISH)

ZU

OOOOKAY, EVERYONE!

PLEASE ENJOY
MY FINAL
PERFORMANCE!

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

#11

MEMORIES OF HOME

BU (SNAP)

SHE WAS SUPPORTING THE ENTIRE ROOM...

...UGH!

...USING HER "THREADS"— HER OWN BODY!?

SO IT WAS A LIE THAT THERE ARE SHIKAGURA IN THOSE CONTAINERS TOO...?

THE HELL? IT'S REALLY STRONG!

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU (THUD)

...PLEASE JOIN ME— IN HELL!

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEEEASE! WOULD EVERYONE GATHERED HERE FOR THIS FESTIVE OCCASION...

BO (FWOOSH)

FIRM, INESCAPABLE STRINGS AND A STRONG DOOR...

...WITH A THUNDERING CHEMICAL FIRE AS AN ADDED BONUS!

EEK!

GAAH ...!

!

GOOOOO CROOOARD

THIS IS MY FINAL PERFOR-MANCE!

...

THANKS, FURY.

THIS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY CUT DOWN THE BLACK DEMONS' FIGHTING FORCE, JUST AS I PLANNED.

...TRUE FAMILY...

MY BEAUTIFUL...

BWA HA!

...AND RED...

EVERY-THING'S SO BRIGHT...

YEAH!! IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL...

DAM-MIT!

JUST HOW MANY OF THESE STRINGS ARE THERE!?

AHH!

...THAT UGLY LITTLE BITCH IS REALLY OUR BLOOD?

WE'RE GONNA BE FINED IF THEY FIND OUT WE HAVE TWO.

IT'S NOT LIKE I KNEW SHE WAS GOING TO HAVE AN UNINSURABLE ILLNESS!

"THAT ONE WAS NEVER BORN."

LET'S JUST LIE TO THE AUTHORITIES—

"THEY LIED."

"THE RECORDS WERE WRONG."

HER BODY CAN'T HANDLE SUNLIGHT, SO NIGHT OR DAY, THIS WORLD OR THE NEXT, IT'S NOT LIKE IT REALLY MATTERS.

WE CAN JUST THROW HER OUT BACK IN THE PIG TOILET.

SO PRETTY ...

OH.

HEY, HEY, I'M REALLY GOOD AT THIS, AREN'T I?

MOMMY? DADDY?

I WAS REALLY GOOD AT ACTING...

...BEAUTIFUL AND HAPPY, RIGHT?

PACHI

PACHI (CLAP)

パチ
(CLAP)
パチ
パチ

BUCHICHI

BUCHIN (SNAP)

BAKI (KRAK)

BEKI (POP)

...!?

YEAH.

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL AND GRAND, ONEE-SAN.

...MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I SHOULDN'T LOSE NOW.

IT KINDA...

GAN CTHWAM

GA

NO...

(GO (WHUD)

HE SNAPPED HIS ARTIFICIAL LIMBS ALONG WITH THE THREADS?

GAN

GA

HIS FLESH TOO...

BUCHI (SNAP)

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, YOUKOU!?

WAIT! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE...

OPEN...

SMASH!!

BAGOO (SMASH)

ARGH, I CAN'T BREATHE ...

PYOKO (HOP)

...HEY.

ZU (DSHD)

OKAY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

!!

THIS PLACE IS COMING DOWN.

THE THREADS ARE STILL ON ME...

HE ACTUALLY DID IT...!

YOU WANNA GET OUT OF HERE TOO, ONEE-SAN?

KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE NUMBER ONE—

"BE NICE TO PEOPLE."

...BWA...

...HA.

YOU'RE SUCH...

...A WEIRD PRINCE... AREN'T...

...YOU...?

BORO (CRUMBLE)

SHUU (FSSHH)

ZUN
CTHWOOM

SHIT!

NEVER MIND RUNNING. AT THIS RATE...



HUH?

YOUKOU!!

...UGH.

GO (THUD)

AKUTA-NII! SO YOUR WOUNDS AREN'T HEALED YET...?

SHUT UP!

BUCHIN (SNAP)

DAMMIT!!

AAMMIT

GARARA (CRUMBLE)

ZUZUN (THOOM)

GOGON (BOOM)

ARMLESS GEAR!

CHARGED ROARING SAND!

HAAH...

...RUNNING FULL-OUT LIKE THAT ISN'T STYLISH.

I'M GETTING TO THE AGE WHERE I WORRY ABOUT SMELLING LIKE AN OLD MAN WHEN I SWEAT...

12

DYING WITH DIGNITY

SHIBA-SAN!!

OLD MAN...!!

I AM TECHNICALLY THE LEADER HERE.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I KNOW. THEY PULLED THE WOOL RIGHT OVER OUR EYES.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THE SHIKAGURA'RE GONNA...

BACHI
(CRACK)

I CAME TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS.

COMPRESSION GEARS FULLY RELEASED.

DESTRUCTIVE PULSE OVERDRIVE, A FOUR-HANDED PERFORMANCE.

...OKAY.

HOW LONG ARE MY ARMS GONNA HOLD?

NAH, IT'S TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE.

SHIBA-SAN! DON'T SKIP THE PHYSICAL AGAIN.

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT MY RUSTY, BROKEN-DOWN OLD BODY.

AS LONG AS I STAY COOL AND STYLISH...

...AND AM ALWAYS LAUGHING, I'M GOOD.

I'M OKAY WITH IT.

GARARARA (RRRRUMBLE)

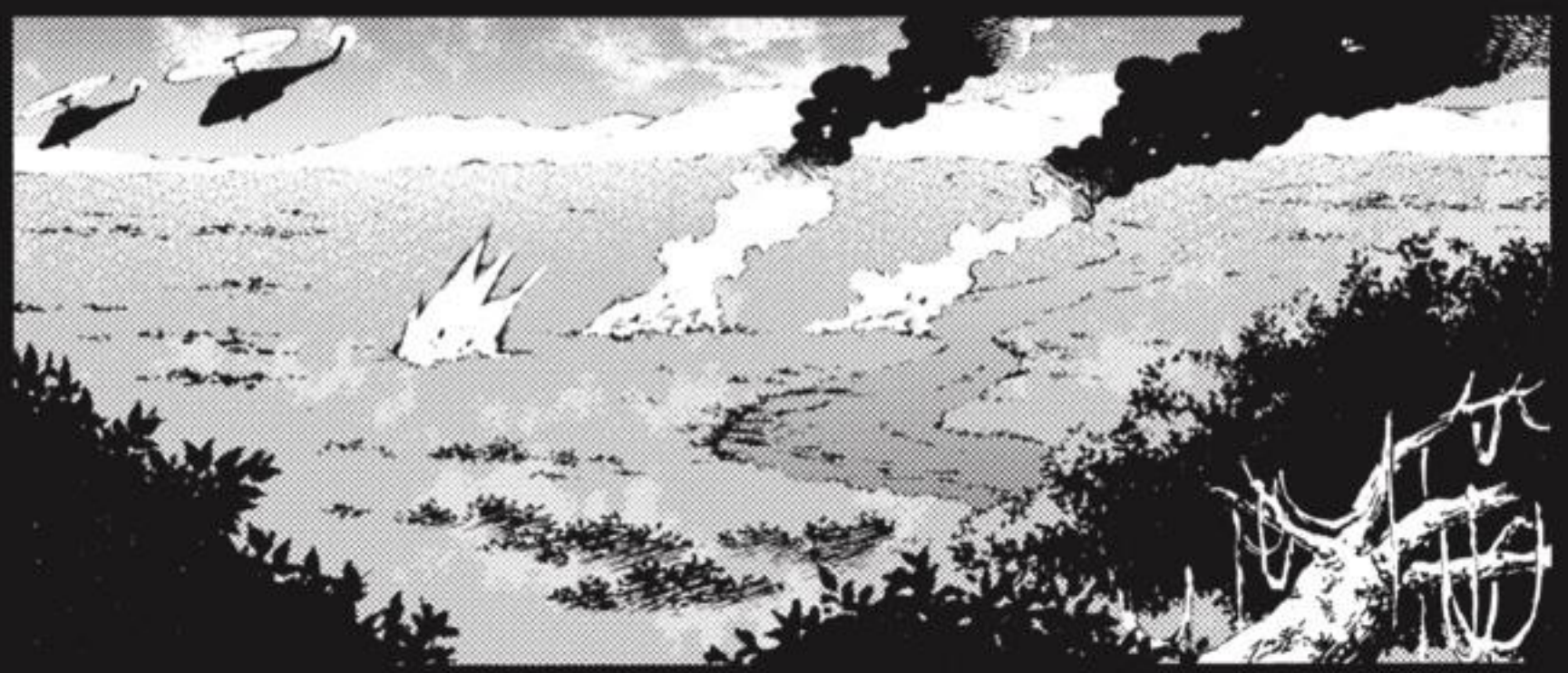
—LAUGH AND PRETEND TO BE A PROPER ADULT.

GIVING UP IS A PRETTY GOOD RECIPE FOR A DELICIOUS WAY TO LIVE TOO, YOU KNOW.

GARA (RUMBLE)

MY OWN DISGUSTINGNESS CAN'T REACH ANYTHING.

AS LONG AS I COVER IT WITH LAUGHTER, I CAN STILL GET AWAY.



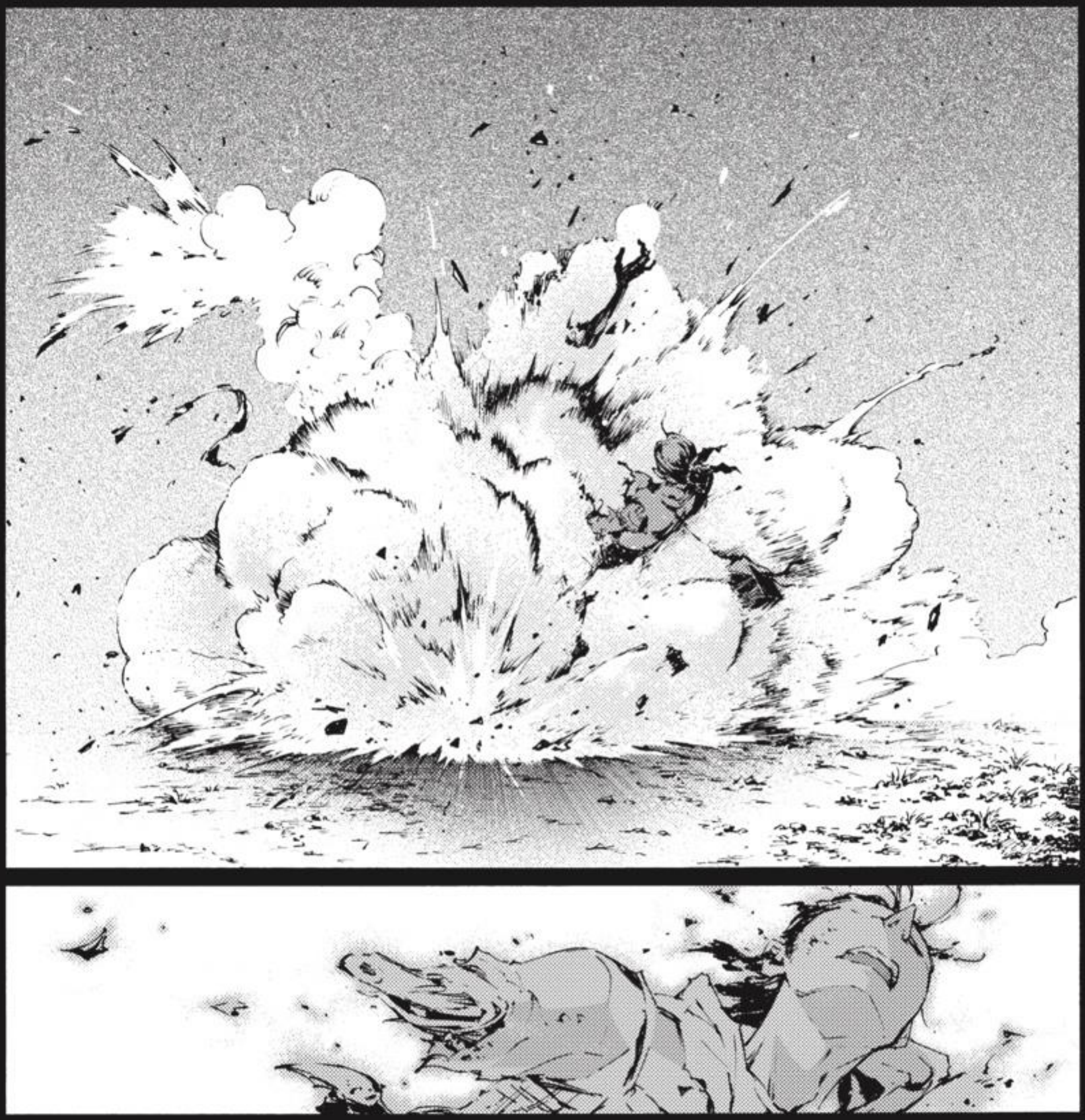


UM, THE N.G.O. CAMP...

IS THIS WAY CLOSER?

MINES

MINES









ARMS TO PICK UP THE PIECES, ARMS TO PRAY, ARMS TO GRIEVE...

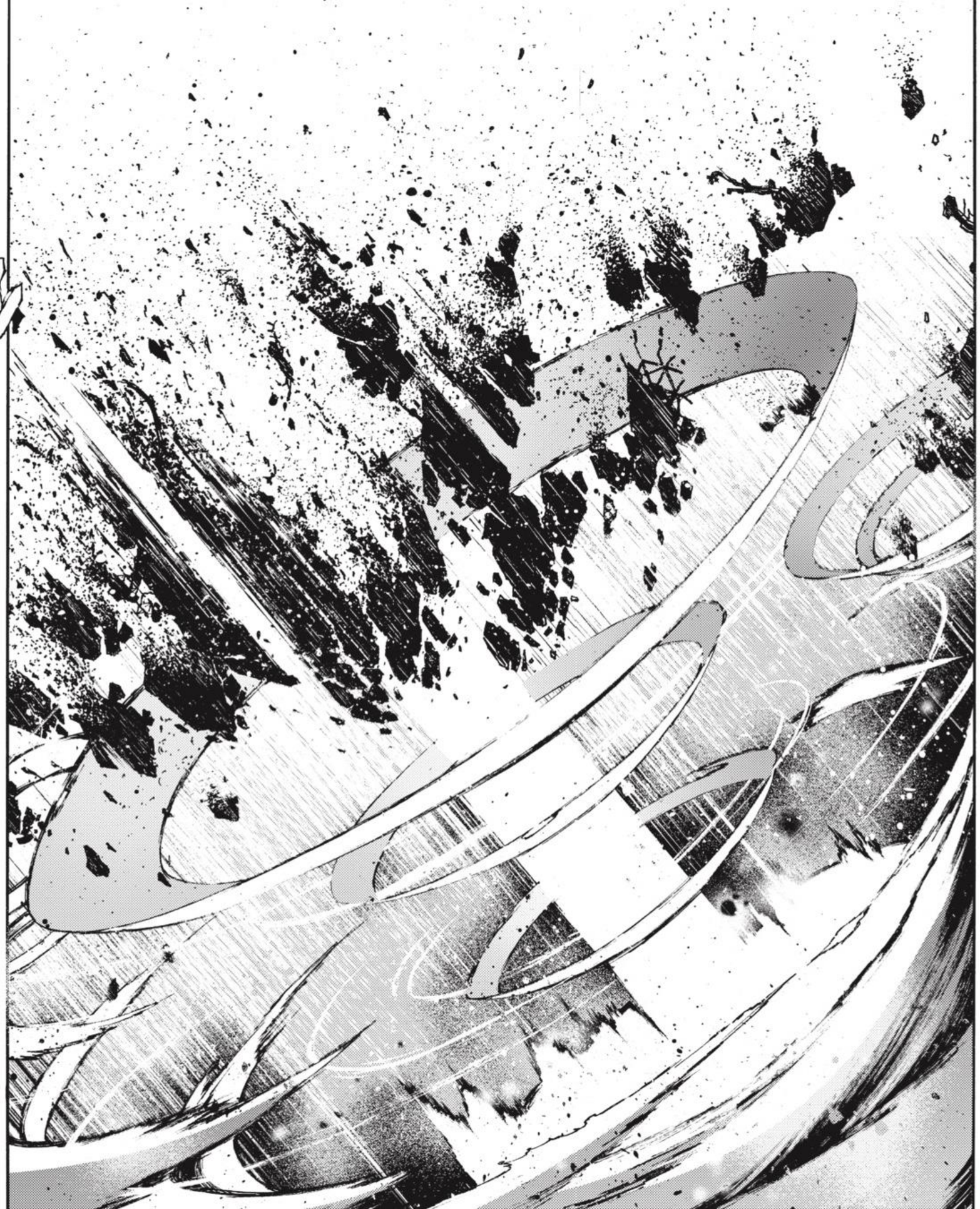
NO.

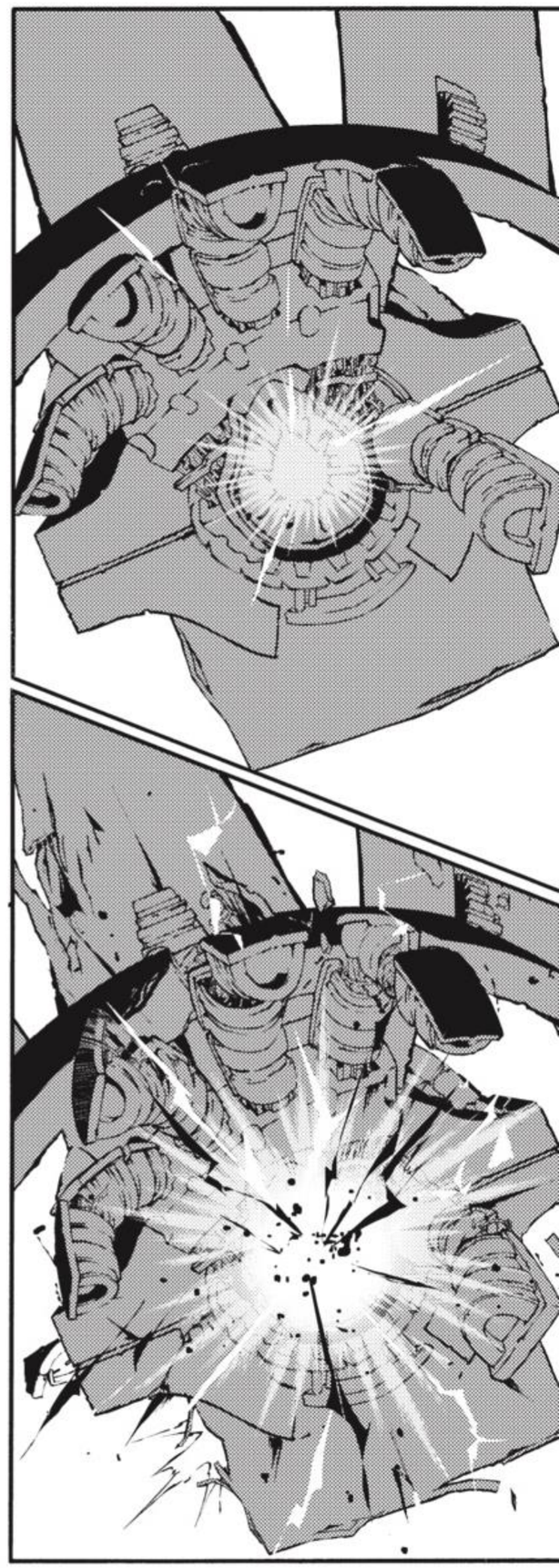
I WANTED...

THE KID WAS IN PIECES.

...ARMS TO SAVE SOMEONE!







IT'S ALL TURNED TO SAND...

WOW... REALLY?

PARA (CRUMBLE)

...WE...

...WE'RE SAVED...?

OH... SHIT.

...MAKING ME REALLY COOL.

I THINK... THIS IS...

...I GET THE FEELING I COULD MAKE SOME PRETTY GOOD FOOD NOW.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, OLD MAN!?

...FIGHTING DESPERATELY, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE COVERED IN SHIT, MAKES FOR A MORE DELICIOUS WAY TO LIVE.

IF YOU REALLY WANNA LAUGH EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T REACH ANYTHING...

GOTON (THUNK)

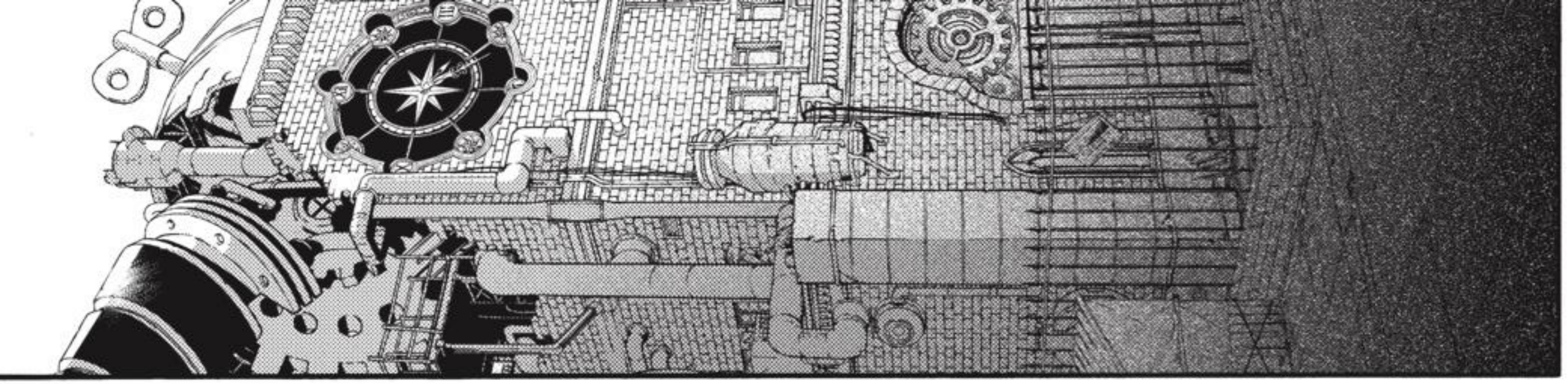
OH.

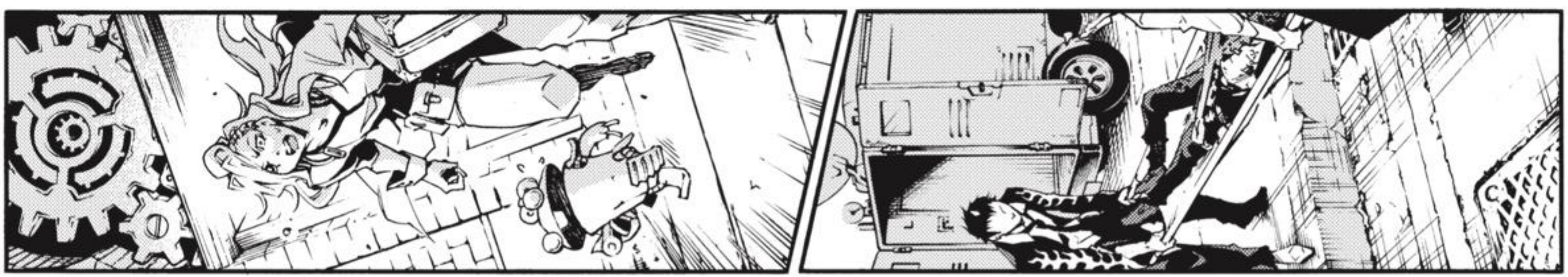
PORO (DROP)

.....

...ADDING THAT TO THE FAMILY RULES.

I'M...







WHAT?

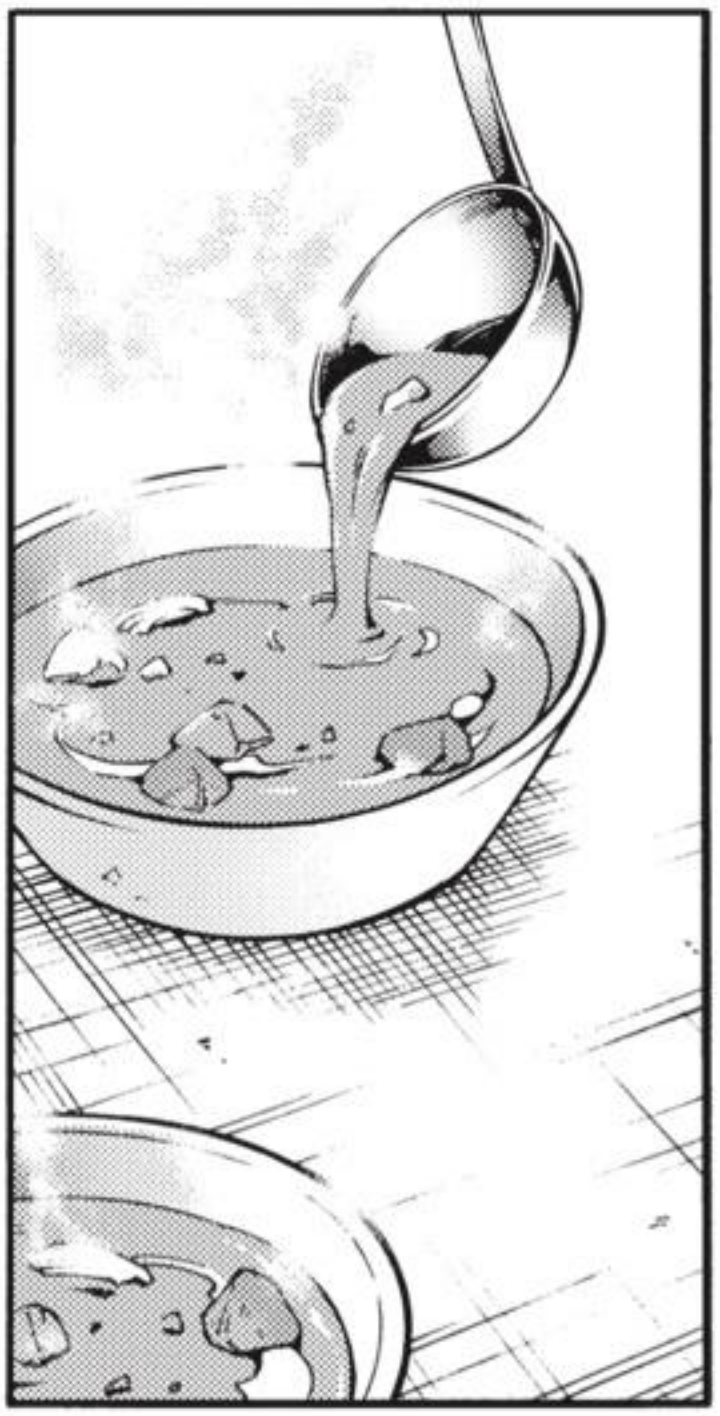
...WAS ODDLY QUIET.

I THOUGHT THE BLACK GANG'S PLACE...

BUT THEY WERE JUST GETTING A REALLY GOOD FIRE GOING.

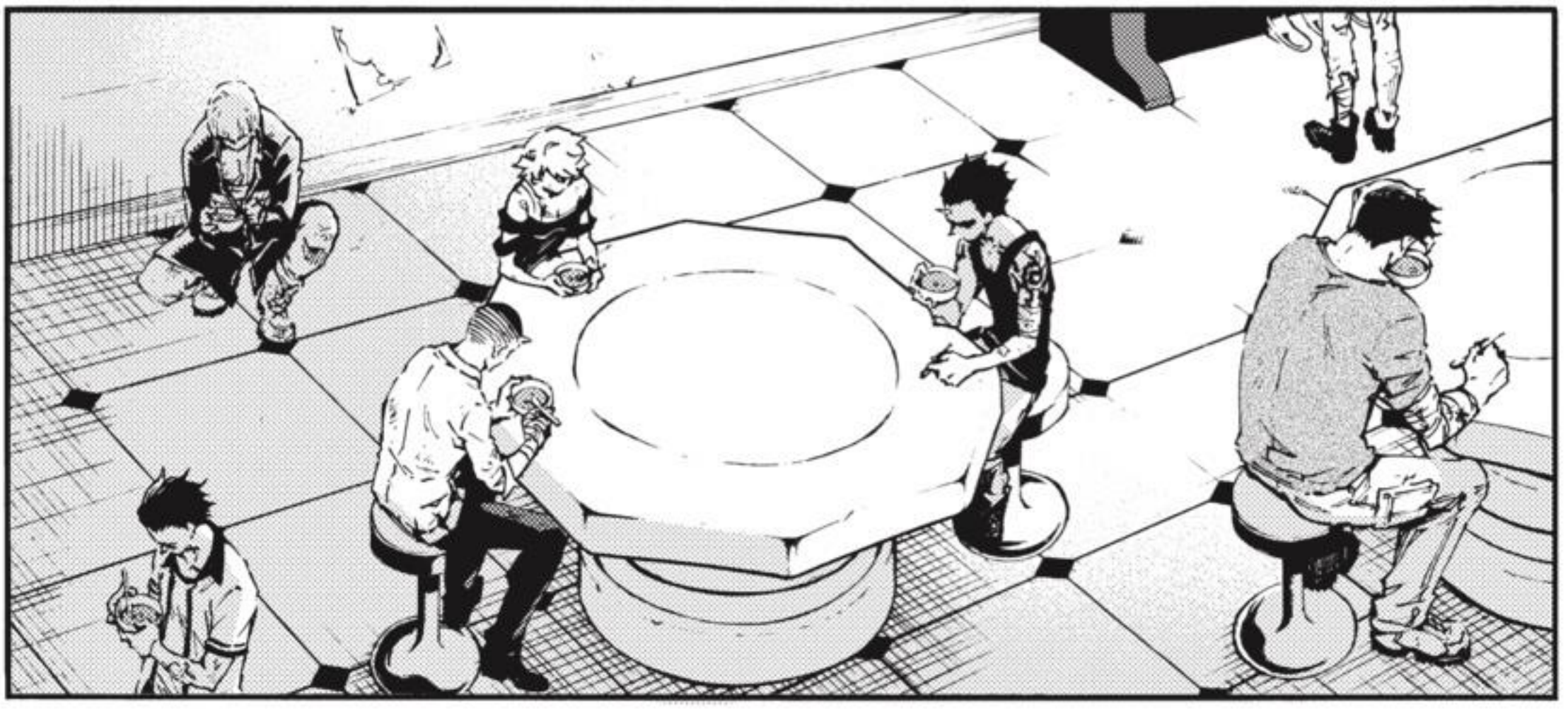
GACHA CKACHAK

カチャ





NOTES: FOR DINNER-SHIBA / DON'T EAT!





ZU
(SLURP)

GA
(GRAB)

GATAN
(CLATTER)

PWAH...

...AHH, WHY, DAMMIT?

GOBU (GULP)

GOBU

...HEY, YOUKOU!

YOU HAVE TO SAVOR IT!

WHY'S IT SO DAMNED BAD!?

GA

GAN (THWACK)

GARAN (CLATTER)

DON (SLAM)

DAMMIT.

PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD,
THE PARADE WILL START.

SMOKING

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

SHUU (HSSS)

PI

PI (BEEP)

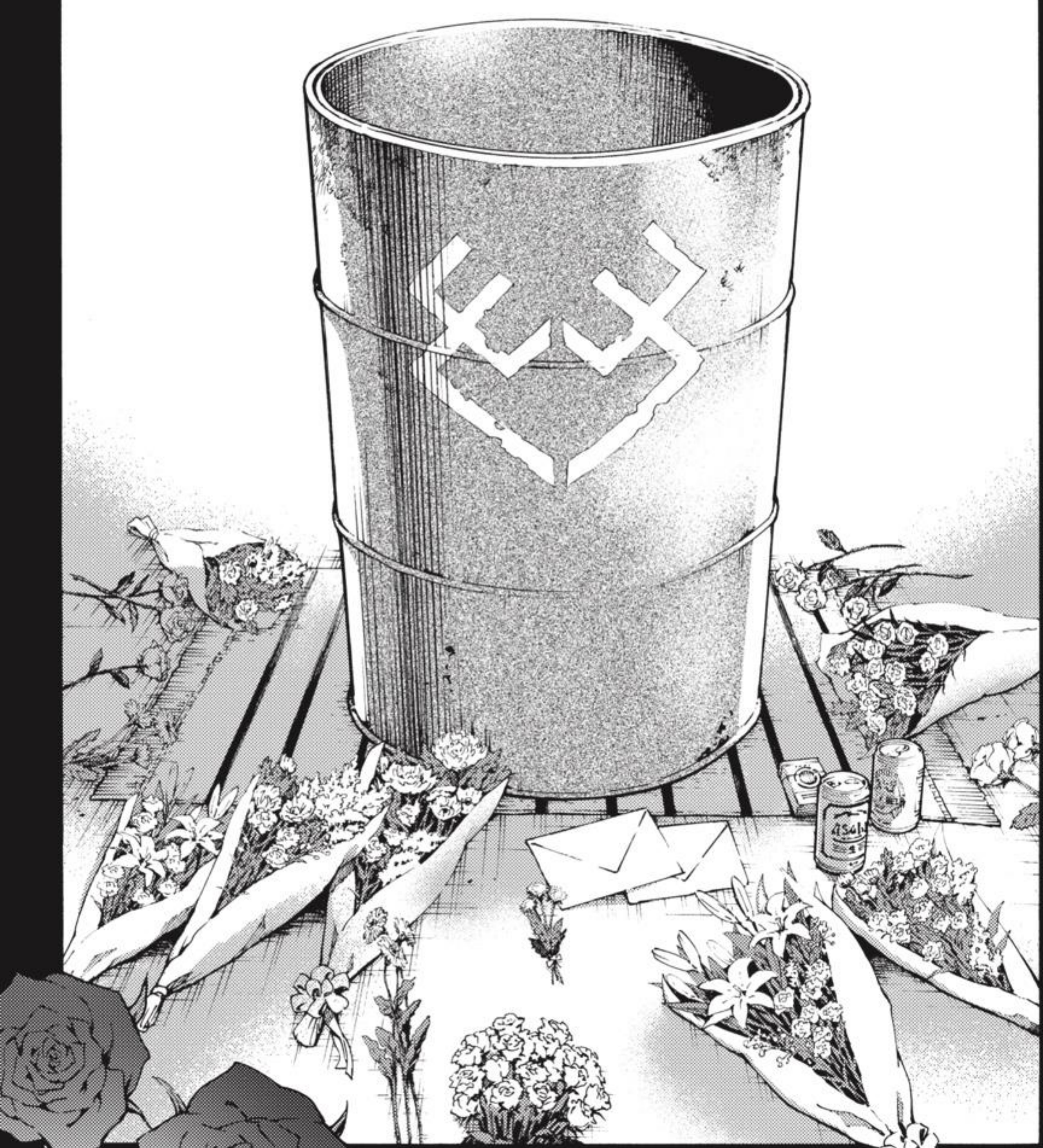
PI

SHUU

#13

#13

OPPOSING WORLDS





PAPER: AMENOTORI FACILITY COLLAPSES / THE DEEPENING MYSTERY / FOREMAN CRUSHED? WAS THIS CAUSED BY A MALFUNCTION?



BON (BWOOM)

GA

GA (KCHNK)

DO (BLAM)

ZARA (FSSHH)

"THEIR GEARS HAVE RUSTED.

"STILL, THEIR SOULS CONTINUE TO TURN IN HELL.

"AND THERE, THEY AWAIT US!!"

WE FOUGHT SOME REALLY STRONG SPIDERS.

EIGHTEEN INJURED AND ELEVEN DEAD...

...AND ONE MISSING...

EVEN THAT OLD MA— ...MASTER SHIBA.

I'M OPTIMISTIC... ACTUALLY, NO, I'M JUST PESSIMISTICALLY CONVINCED...

...SHE WAS GONE... NO CORPSE, NO BLOOD, NO TRACE AT ALL...

ALL OF A SUDDEN...I WAS ATTACKED... AND BEFORE I REALIZED IT...

...THAT MIDARI-NEE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED BY THE SHIKAGURA.

WHAT ABOUT ME?

I'VE BEEN THINKING TOO MUCH. NOW I'M HUNGRY.

BUT THE SHIKAGURA DISAPPEARED.

GOGGLE-MASK GUY WAS IN TEARS, SAYING HE CAN'T FIND ANYTHING POINTING TO WHERE THEY ARE RIGHT NOW.

SOME PEOPLE ARE MAD. SOME ARE CRYING. SOME ARE FIRED UP.

SOME ARE SCARED, SO THEY WANNA RUN AND GIVE UP.

RINGON
(RRING)
RINGON
RINGON
RINGON
RINGON
RINGON
RINGON
RINGON
Subject: Complaint
From: Board Lv. 4
e pros and cons of
roy g the factory
Sub: Complaint
From: Board Lv. 3
About the factory
Complaint
Board Lv. 5
we deal with
From: Inspe or
Personal co sequences
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK IS MAKING AMENOTORI ALL OF ITS PROFITS ANYWAY!?
ME!! THE PRODUCTS I DEVELOPED!
FUUUUUUCK!
WHAT THE HELL? IT'S JUST ONE STUPID LITTLE FACTORY, YOU FILTHY PIG EXECUTIVES!!

BASTARD!

WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR ASSES TO THE NEXT MEETING!?

SO, "I WOULD BE HAPPY TO EXPLAIN MORE AT A FUTURE MEETING."

"HOWEVER, THE QUALITY OF OUR PRODUCT REMAINS UNCOMPROMISED.

"WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION."

SO, "LIKE YOU, ESTEEMED BOARD MEMBER, I DEEPLY REGRET THE INCIDENT AT THE FACTORY.

PI LO LO PI (BEEP)

LO PI

During an inc

Ca

RINGON

Subjec

From :

SO, "THIS WAS A PRACTICAL TEST OF A NEW PROTOTYPE, SO THERE REMAINS SOME AMOUNT OF RISK IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS."

MY SHIKAGURA ARE GONNA KILL MORE AND MORE OF THOSE DAMNED BLACK DEMONS!!

CTRL + C.

CTRL + V.

PI LO LO PI

DOGYAA (SMASH)

!

Subject: Orders

From: Amenotori company president

LIVE MESSAGE

status : online

...SIR!

Yes. Sorry to bother you when you're so busy, Kurama-kun.

You seem to have gotten a bit too invested in your "personal feelings."

I...

I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU IN A WHILE.

I'm very pleased that you're coming closer to completing the Spiders.

However ...

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

THAT'S CASE NUMBER FOUR.

WE STILL GET NORMAL SPIDER READINGS, EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?

VIII (WHIRR)

THAT'S OBVIOUS...

!

...!

LADY EMMA...

NO WAY!?

THE BOSS OF THE JACKALOPES.

THE FOUNDER OF THE JACKALOPES.

THE BOSS.

THE ULTIMATE LEADER WHO WATCHES OVER EVERYTHING.

THE MISANTHROPE WHO RESTS PEACEFULLY IN THE BASEMENT.

LADY EMMA.

WHAT'S SHE HERE TO DO?

JUST HOW OLD IS SHE?

NO WAY!

I THOUGHT SHE WAS AN URBAN LEGEND...

SHE WAS REAL?

JI (STARE)

...I SEE WE'VE AMASSED QUITE A FEW NEW FACES.

.....

...AFTER BEING IN THE BASEMENT FOR TEN YEARS...

?

...I TRULY REGRET THE OUTCOME OF RECENT EVENTS.

THE JACKALOPES EXIST SOLELY TO DESTROY THE SPIDERS THAT THREATEN HUMANITY AT ALL TIMES.

THIS IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

BUT YOU MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR GOAL!

YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH MOTIVATION!

THIS IS ABOUT MAINTAINING AMENOTORI AS A GLOBAL CORPORATION.

IN SHORT...

THIS CONCERNS THE ENTIRE ORGANIZATION OF THE JACKALOPES.

IN OTHER WORDS...

...YOU ARE HEREBY FORBIDDEN FROM ANY FURTHER INTERFERENCE WITH THE JACKALOPES.

I ORDER YOU TO RESUME REGULAR OPERATIONS.

...THIS IS AN ORDER.

YOU ARE FORBIDDEN FROM INTERFERING WITH THE SHIKAGURA ANY FURTHER.

...This...

...is definitely sound in theory.

YEAH.

THE DAMAGE IS TOO GREAT.

IF WE KEEP FIGHTING IN THIS CONDITION, WE'LL JUST EXHAUST OURSELVES...

...!?

YOU...

...WANT US TO JUST ABANDON AVENGING EVERYONE ...!?

AND RESCUING MIDARI-NEE...!?

.....

HMMM...

DID THE FURY PLAN WIPE THEM OUT?

NO.

GIRI (TIGHT)

THEY ESCAPED DEATH, THANKS TO SOME DRAMATICS FROM THE OLD MAN.

A SURPRISING NUMBER OF THEM DIDN'T DIE.

.....

OHH?

HOTEL Sweet TIME

OUR PLANS ARE CANCELED?

237

237

YEAH, ON CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA'S ORDERS.

...WELL, WE DID DEAL A PRETTY BIG BLOW TO THE DEMONS...SO I GUESS THAT'S NOT TOO BAD.

...IF WE DON'T NEED TO MAKE ANY MORE MOVES AGAINST THEM...

...THEN SHOULD WE GIVE *HER* BACK?

HUH!? OF COURSE WE'RE NOT GONNA GIVE HER BACK!

BAKI (CRACK)

I NEED MII-NEECHAN HERE WITH ME!

THAT'S WHY I WENT TO THAT SADISTIC BITCH...

I MEAN! THIS IS WHAT I WANTED!

I'VE ALLWAYS WANTED THIS!

GARARA (RATTLE)

MICHICHI (TIGHT)

FH 4!!

...AND MANIPULATED THE INTEL SO SHE'D ORDER US TO GO AFTER THE BLACK DEMONS!

ISN'T IT!?

.....

...PERHAPS FURY WAS WHAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER.

NO... DESTRUCTION IS SIMPLY THE WAY FAMILY IS.

CHILDREN'S DESIRES ARE TERRIFYING.

BRRRR.

"FA...

...MILY."

...I IMAGINE YOU HAD ANOTHER, BETTER FAMILY.

YOU HAVE NOT LOST YOUR TEAR DUCTS TO EXPERIMENTS AND TIME.

...I ENVY YOU.

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

All Jackalopes on shift, please deploy.

Spider readings in ward sixty-four.

BEEP

MOSHA

MOSHA (MUNCH)

IT'S MAKING ME THINK OF SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME.

APPARENTLY, THE JACKALOPES ARE BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL BECAUSE THAT OLD BOSS LADY ORDERED IT.

...WE ALL JUST KINDA DID WHAT THE PRINCIPAL AND THE SCHOOL RULES SAID. THIS IS LIKE THAT.

EVEN WHEN WE MUTTERED AND GRUMBLED ABOUT IT...

EVEN WHEN WE DIDN'T REALLY GET WHY...

HUH?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT OLD WOMAN'S ORDERS.

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

GASHA (RATTLE)

YOU ON SHIFT TODAY?

KOTO-HARU.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

HUH?

...I'VE NEVER REALLY HAD MUCH OF A SENSE OF TASTE.

BUT LATELY THINGS HAVE BEEN REALLY WEIRD. MAYBE I'M SICK.

.....ME?

THINGS JUST GET STUCK IN MY THROAT FOR SOME REASON, AND I CAN'T EVEN GULP MY FOOD DOWN.

IT'S ALL JUST DISGUSTING... LIKE THE OLD MAN'S STEW.

YEAH, SO I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ALL SORTS OF STUFF...

YOU'RE NOT SICK, AND IT'S NOT A PROBLEM WITH YOUR TASTEBUDS—

...ARE YOU THAT STUPID?

IT'S A HUGE PROBLEM FOR ME.

I HAVE THE FEELING I'LL GET BETTER IF WE GET REVENGE FOR THE OLD MAN.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KOTOHARU?

ZA (WHOOSH)

DEFINITELY!

HEAVEN KISS

HOTEL

Broth Sexy

BUT WHERE DO WE GO?

WE JUST GO LOOK AROUND AT RANDOM, OF COURSE!

WHOA... YOU'RE PRETTY STUPID YOURSELF, YOU KNOW.

KON (KNOCK)

OHH!

HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN, NUMBER EIGHTY-SEVEN!?

BATAN (SHUT)

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, MASTER!

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR PERFUME?

I'LL BUY YOU PLENTY MORE.

I WAS CONVINCED YOU HAD DIED.

I SHOULD HAVE USED MY INFORMATION NETWORK TO HUNT YOU DOWN.

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE GLAD.

YOU WILL? I'M SO GLAD!

WHATEVER SHALL I CUT TODAY?

HOW MANY NEW HOLES SHALL I OPEN UP IN YOUR BODY?

WHAT SORTS OF DRUGS SHALL I USE ON YOU?

YOU HAPPY, SIR.

CORP—?

THEY DIDN'T FIND *HIS* BODY.

YOU CAN TELL?

I HEARD FROM THE AMENOTORI CORPSE COLLECTORS.

I NO GET IT, BUT GLAD YOU HAPPY.

YOU TALK TOO FAST FOR ME.

WANT?

...SO I CAN STILL FULFILL MY DESIRE, YOU KNOW?

I DON'T HAVE A LIGHTER ON ME.

NAH.

DON CBLAM

DO

DO

DON

DO

DON

DON

PARA (FLUTTER)

...ISN'T JUST GONNA BE THE END, IS IT?

...THIS...

JIJI (FWOOSH)

KACHIN (CLICK)

...THANKS FOR ALL THE GREAT INFO...

...YOU DEPRAVED CLIENT.

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST YOU OR ANYTHING, BUT I'M IN A HURRY, SO SORRY.

...I DID ACTUALLY LIKE THE PERFUME.

IT COVERED UP YOUR ROTTEN STENCH.

I'LL BE SURE... TO USE THIS INFORMATION NETWORK TO FIND YOU...

...MIDARI-NEE.

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.



JINSEI KATAOKA

KAZUMA KONDOU

BAD GUYS = CRIMINALS = PEOPLE WHO LIKE DARK, SHADY PLACES.

THE SHIKAGURA = KILLERS OF MASTER SHIBA = BAD GUYS.

= SOMEWHERE YOU MIGHT FIND THE SHIKAGURA.

#14
EXPOSING SECRETS

THE OFFICES OF A CERTAIN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION

DOKAAAN (BOOOM)

BOSS!

A DRUG MANUFACTURER (*THE SORT OF DRUGS A PHARMACY WOULDN'T CARRY)

BAGOOON (FWOOM)

WAAAH!?

THAT METH WAS GONNA MAKE ME A FORTUNE!

WEAPONS STOREHOUSE FOR THE ROUTE 999 GANG

ZUPAPAN (SLASH)

GLUE 'EM BACK TOGETHER!

WHAT THE HELL!?

DANGER

ALL THE GOODS GOT SLICED IN TWO!?

THE "STABBING SISTERS" FROM A CERTAIN CHURCH.

RAAH!

IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, DIE!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

"TREAT MEN AND WOMEN EQUALLY"!

KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE—

JACKALOPE BASE, THE CLOCK ROCK

CRASH

OH MY GOD!

IT'S NORMAL TO WANT TO THINK THAT YOU'LL STOP BEING SAD IF YOU JUST GET REVENGE.

I GET WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM.

THOSE TWO ARE BOTH SO YOUNG.

THE WHOLE NEIGHBOR-HOOD'S GONNA DISAPPEAR AT THIS RATE.

...WE CAN'T STOP HIM...AND I DON'T WANNA STOP HIM.

IT'S ALL 'COS MATSUGO CAME TO THE JACKALOPES AFTER MIDARI SAVED HIM...

LOOKS LIKE MATSUGO'S WORKING TOWARD RESCUING MIDARI TOO.

THE GENTLEMAN INFORMANT'S "MASTER KEY" WAS STOLEN BEFORE HE WAS KILLED.

ZA
CFWOOSH)

YEAH.

THOSE'RE OUR ***ORDERS***, AFTER ALL.

...SO THEY DON'T GET ANY MORE OF US.

ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP KILLING SPIDERS LIKE USUAL...

DISREGARDING ORDERS AND GOING AFTER THE SHIKAGURA—

YOU SWEAR YOU DIDN'T SPUR THEM ON?

BU (SPRT)

HUH?

I don't give A SHIT!!

IT'S SIMPLY THAT THEY VERY MUCH REMIND ME...

...IF YOU DIDN'T, THEN I APOLO-GIZE.

...OF A COUPLE OF BUCKING BRONCOS I ONCE KNEW WHO WERE ALWAYS IN SYNC.

.....

GAN (SLAM)

VIIN (WHIRR)

LADY EMMA.

.....

...FUGLY BITCH!!

AH, THANK YOU...

HERE ARE THE RAW DATA LOGS THAT YOU WANTED.

!

HYU (WHOOSH)

!!

BISH!!!
(CRACK)

...SUBMIT THEM AGAIN, THIS TIME WITHOUT ANY SPYWARE.

IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO SPY ON MY MOVEMENTS TO SATISFY YOUR TWISTED CURIOSITY...

...THEN YOU SHOULD BE WORKING ON FIXING THE TWO-MICRON MISMATCH IN THE MID-BARREL OF AKUTA'S GEAR.

EEEE...

.....!

SHE NOTICED.

VIII (WHIRR)

.....

IF ONLY SHE WERE THIRTY...

I WOULD DARE TO SUBMIT TO HER VIOLENT PYGMALION EFFECT AND GAIN A CODEPENDENT AUTHORITY OVER HER, AND THE LIMA SYNDROME WOULD BRING LOVE TO THE TWO OF US!

...NO, JUST TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER! ...DAMMIT!

GAKU (SLUMP)

You pervert!!

IF SOMETHING IS WARPED, YOU STRIKE IT, SHARPEN IT, AND POLISH IT.

MY IDEAL IS TO FUNCTION AS A GEAR.

BE A TRUE GEAR— SHIRAMA.

VUN (FWOOSH)

PI (BEEP)

LO.

BUT STILL...

BECAUSE I'M A GENIUS.

...I GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHERE HER "INTERESTS" LIE.

...WELL, BASED ON THE CODES SHE REQUESTED...

...WHY HIM?

DOON (LOOM)

"SHIKAGURA"?

NO CLUE!

BORO (BATTERED)

IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, I DON'T KNOW!

SORRY, I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

NO CLUE, BUT REALLY, THESE PICS ARE WAY TOO BLURRY TO TELL ANYWAY.

ESPECIALLY THIS GIRL!

OH!

HER FACE...

...IS REALLY CUTE!

!?

DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE HER?

...WHEN THE FACTORY WAS COL-LAPSING...

...SHE WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR I KNOCKED DOWN...

—SHE LOOKED JUST LIKE MY DEAD SISTER.

...!?

MENOTORI

...

.....

.....!!

XXXX
XXXX

AMENOTORI BOARDROOM

I'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG THAT WE SHOULD BRING IN A CONCURRENT ENGINEERING METHOD.

SHOULDN'T WE BE THINKING ABOUT THE FOREIGN ENTERPRISE ANGLE?

TO MANAGE THE BUDGET, WE SHOULD MAKE CONTINUAL CHANGES IN A BBM FASHION.

YOU'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT THE MONETARY COST OF LOSING THE FACTORY?

IN ORDER TO RECOUP THE LOSS OF BRAND REPUTATION FROM THIS...

HOW ABOUT INSTEAD OF RUNNING E.R.M., WE MAKE DEVELOPMENT A COMPLETELY SEPARATE PART OF THE COMPANY FOR THE SAKE OF RISK MANAGEMENT?

FORCING THEM TO OWN UP TO THEIR RESULTS?

IT'S OKAY. THESE IDIOTS ARE JUST MEAT. PIGS. GARBAGE SAUSAGE. THEY SHOULD JUST SHAVE IT ALL OFF OR GO FOR A SAMURAI TOPKNOT.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS?

THE FAULTS IN OUR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY BECAUSE OF YOUR ACTIONS, CAUSING OUR STOCK'S PBR TO FALL.

KEEP CALM, KEEP CALM.

...AS I WAS SAYING, THAT IS...

YOUR PROJECT IS NOT REUSABLE. ALL OF OUR SPONSORS ARE DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY!

FUA (WHOOSH)

AS THE MARKET LEADER, WE SHOULD—

SU (SSK)

!

NOW, NOW, TESTING ON LAB RATS WAS INEVITABLE.

AND I DID INSTRUCT CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA TO "COMMENCE" THIS TIME.

I WILL FOLLOW UP LATER WITH DIRECTIONS FOR CARRYING OUT OUR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS.

WE SHOULD ALL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON ALWAYS PUTTING OUT BETTER "PRODUCTS."

OH...

THE CUSTOMER IS GOD, AFTER ALL.

ZORO

ZORO (PLOD)

ゾロ

ゾロ…

AMENOTORI

SIR... THANK YOU.

REALLY...

IT WAS NOTHING.

GOOD JOB.

YOU HAVE A GIRL NAMED MIRAI...

...IN YOUR SHIKAGURA, DO YOU NOT?

OH, THAT REMINDS ME...

BASICALLY, THEY'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED AFTER BECOMING SPIDERS, RIGHT?

THEY WERE ALL BROUGHT BY THE CORPSE COLLECTORS, AFTER ALL.

?

I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THEIR ACTUAL NAMES.

THIS GIRL...

I'D LIKE TO BORROW HER AND HAVE A LITTLE CHAT.

APPARENTLY, SHE HAD QUITE AN INTERESTING BROTHER, THOUGH THEY WEREN'T RELATED BY BLOOD.

...MIRAI KAKUJOU.

O...

...NII...

...CHAN.

WHERE ARE YOU...?

...SHE LOOKED JUST LIKE YOUR DEAD SISTER...?

YEAH.

I CALLED HER MY SISTER, BUT WE JUST CAME FROM THE SAME ORPHANAGE.

ROCK, PAPER...

SHE WAS ALWAYS GETTING PICKED ON, SO WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER...

たいよう園

SIGN: TAIYOU ORPHANAGE

AND THEN KAKUJOU-SAN ADOPTED US BOTH TOGETHER.

KAKUJOU-SAN POUNDED A BUNCH OF "FAMILY RULES" INTO MY HEAD...

...BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS TEACHING ME NEW STUFF TOO.

HERE, LIKE THIS!

LIKE WHEN THE CORNERS OF YOUR MOUTH ARE SQUEEZED UP, THAT'S GOOD.

YOU TRY TOO, ONII-CHAN!

?

OR THAT BIG, ROUND EYES ARE CUTE.

...SO...

...THAT SHIKAGURA WHO LOOKED LIKE MY SISTER MUST BE CUTE TOO, RIGHT?

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?

DON (SHOCK)

THE FACT THAT A SHIKAGURA LOOKS JUST LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S DEAD...!

THE PROBLEM IS!!

HUH?

THAT'S...

...SOMEONE...

...WHO'S DEAD?

...OH.

AKUTA-NII!

...EVER SINCE YOU SAW THOSE IMAGES OF THE SHIKAGURA.

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING KIND OF... STRANGE...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

.....

HUH!? A FRIEND!?

NEW INFORMA-TION!!

KACHI (CLICK)

...I HAD A JACKALOPE BUDDY I REALLY, REALLY DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH.

...WAY BACK WHEN...

...YEAH...

BUT I KILLED HIM.

I KEPT GOING AT HIM UNTIL THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT.

IT'S LIKE AMENOTORI BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LIFE.

THIS IS JUST LIKE WHAT AKUTA-NII WAS SAYING...!

MAYBE WHAT HE SAW AT THE FACTORY...

...WASN'T JUST A SIMILAR FACE OR A TWIN...

...BUT HIS ACTUAL DEAD SISTER...!?

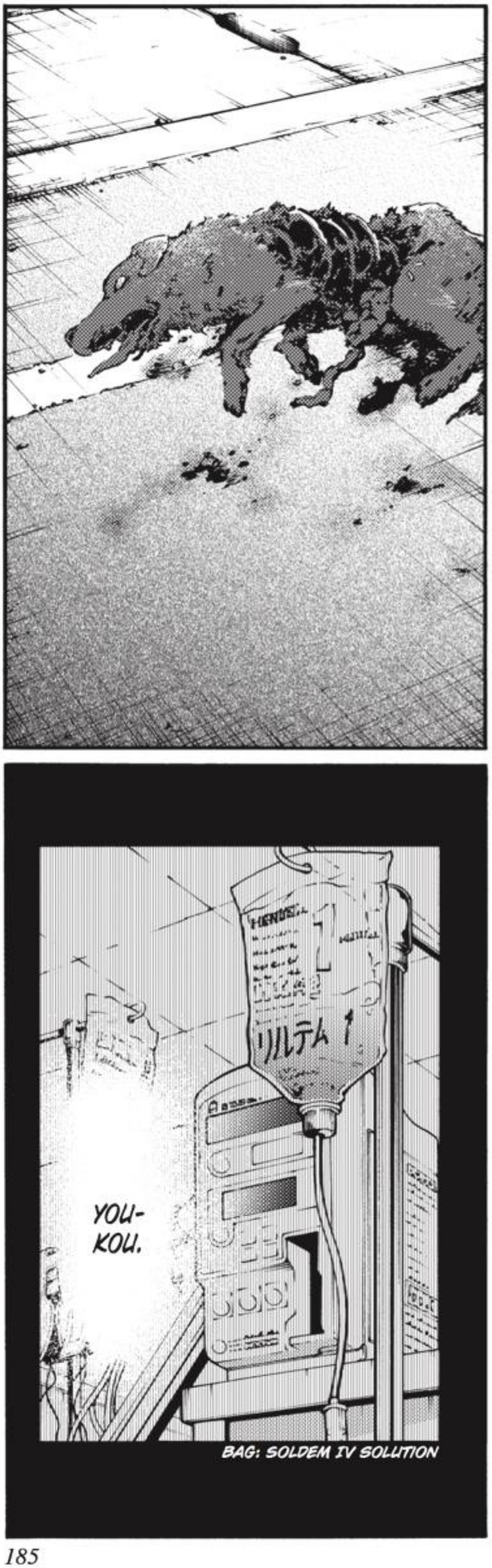
...SO THEY'RE CUTE TOO, RIGHT?

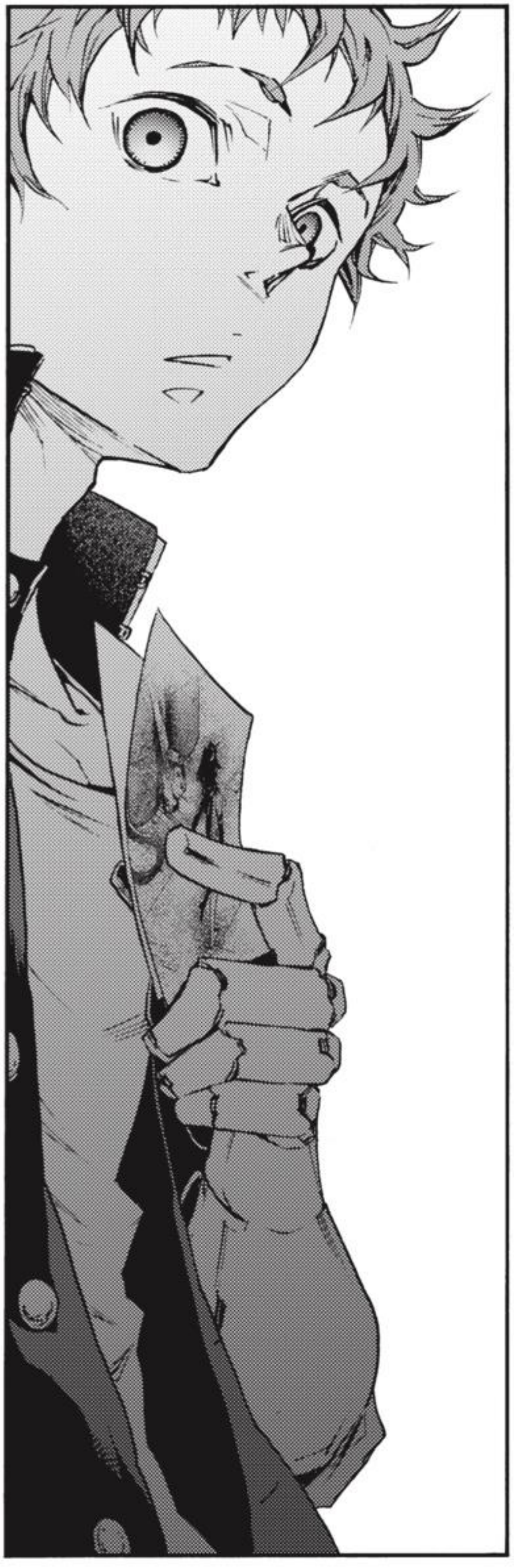
BUTSU BUTSU

BUTSU (MUMBLE)

...ARE "FLUFFY"...

BUNNIES AND DOGS...


YOU-
KOU.
BAG: SOLDEM IV SOLUTION



HEY...MAKE SURE...YOU FOLLOW ALL THE FAMILY RULES.

THAT MAY BE THE ONLY WAY...

...YOU CAN STAY "NORMAL"...

TO

PIIII (BEEP)...

KATA

KATATA

KATA

KATA

TATATA

KATATA

KATA

KATATA (CLACK)

KATATA

KATA

KATAKATAKATAK

HOW COULD I NOT NOTICE THIS SILENT MUTATION!? DOES MISMATCH RESTORATION REALLY HAPPEN THIS OFTEN!?

AAAAAH, I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!

A GENIUS-LEVEL IDIOT!

YOUKOU-KUN, YOU ARE.....

"BIG, ROUND EYES"...

"FLUFFY"...

CHU

GUCHA (SQUELCH)

YEAH.

YOU'RE REALLY CUTE.

HMM?

LET'S GET TO THE NEXT PLACE, YOUKOU!

HEY!

ARRGH...!

NO OVER-THINKING THINGS!

GOT IT!

ARE YOU...

YOUKOU-KUN.

...BEYOND A SPIDER?

—ARE YOU A MONSTER?

Click!

THE MYSTERY OF THE JACKALOPES

Q: WHAT ARE THOSE HORNS THE MEMBERS WEAR?



*THEY'RE NOT MADE FROM A SPECIAL MATERIAL LIKE THE GEARS, SO THEY CAN BE MASS-PRODUCED! NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR USE AS PARTY FAVORS AND THE LIKE!!

THE SECRET OF AMENOTORI

Q: WHY DO THE SPIDERS HAVE SUCH WEIRD FACES AFTER THEY TRANSFORM?



SMOKIN' PARADE #03

BY JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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4

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU



SMOKIN' PARADE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF MONSTERS HERE.

"HUMANS WHO HAVE BECOME MONSTERS"...

...AND "MONSTERS WHO PRETEND TO BE HUMAN."





#15

SO IT BEGINS

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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Adding Fuel to the Fire

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A Chill Down One's Spine

SMOKIN' PARADE

CHARACTERS

AKUTA

A Jackalope who has taken a liking to Youkou because he sees himself in the kid. A heavy smoker with a sweet tooth.

YOUKOU KAKUJOU

A boy who lost both arms and his right leg when his younger sister turned into a Spider. He has replaced one missing arm with a Gear and joined the Jackalopes.

KOTOHARU

A member of the Jackalopes. He has an incredible amount of respect for Akuta and keeps a collection of items related to him.





AMENOTORI

The revolutionary medical company that has made it possible to transplant any human part. This individual appears to have some connection to the company...?



MIDARI



MATSUGO



SHIKAGURA

A gang of Spiders that Kurama has sent after the Jackalopes.



DOC

SHOULD I CALL YOU "MIKURO" NOW?

"BOY"... NO.

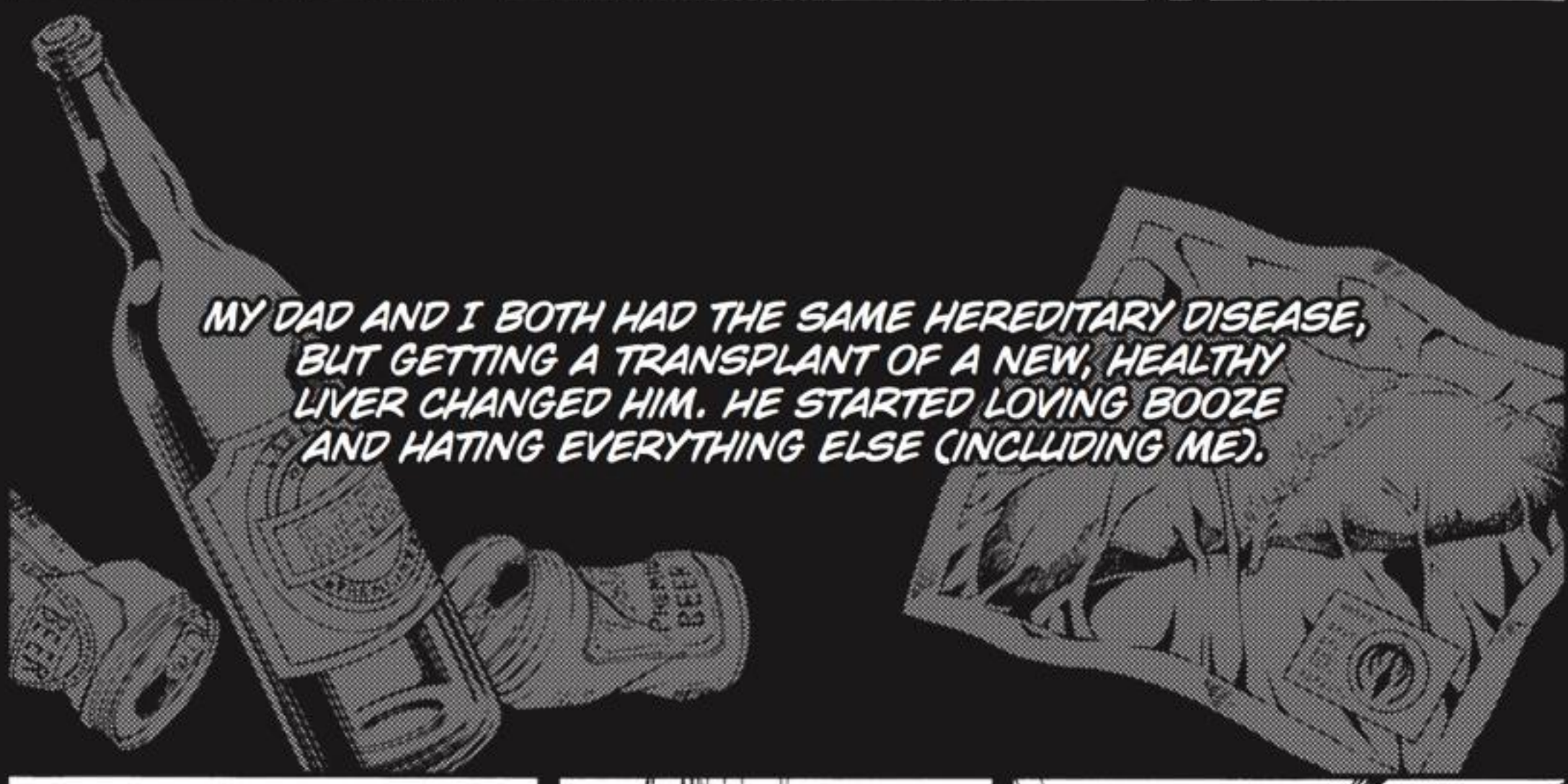
I THINK YOUR FASHION SENSE COULD USE SOME WORK.

PURE WHITE.

IT'S PERFECT FOR YOU, MII-NEECHAN.

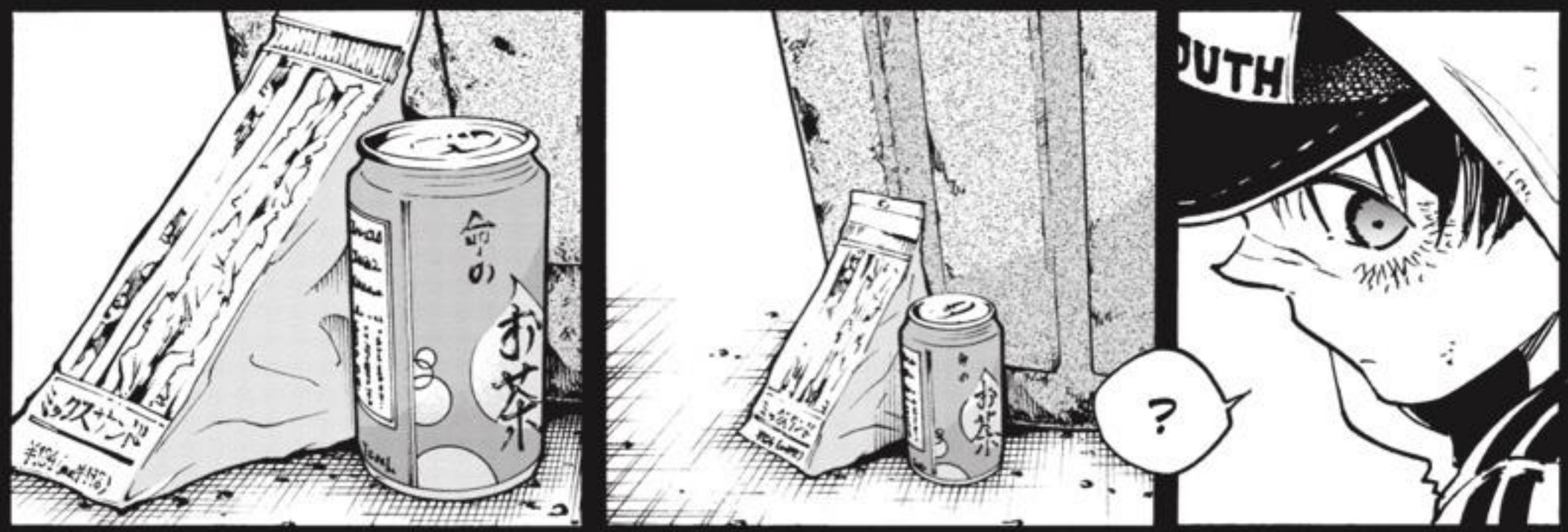
GASA (RUSTLE)







BUT I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DIE.



AND FOR SOME REASON...

...THIS PERSON WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF I DIED.

SO DO I.

JUST HURRY UP AND EAT, BOY.

...ARE THOSE HORNS...

...SOME NEW TREND OR SOMETHING?

I THINK THEY'RE PRETTY LAME.

BUT I'VE BEEN PATROLLING THE AREA EVERY DAY, AND I CAN'T FIND IT.

...A MONSTER SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.

WE PICKED UP READINGS FROM A SPIDER... I MEAN...

INSTEAD, THE ONLY THING I'VE COME ACROSS IS A BOY WHO'S ALWAYS BEAT-UP AND EATING GARBAGE.

SEEING THAT ALL THE TIME IS GOING TO HURT ME EVEN MORE THAN SMOKING WILL.

THIS WOMAN, WITH HER BIG, NARROW EYES, WAS EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL TO ME THAN THE BITS OF COLORED GLASS I COLLECTED FROM THE TRASH.

—HEY, MII-NEECHAN.

I WANT TO SAVE YOU.

OHH?

...I FEEL THE SAME AS BEFORE.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

I TOOK OUT THE GAG, SO LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING!

IS THAT WHY YOU KILLED MY FATHER?

...HE WAS A SPIDER.

.....

...YOU'RE TOO NICE.

THAT'S WHY...

MII-NEECHAN...

.....



...YOU'RE NEVER GONNA BE ABLE TO SAVE ME.

全套♡

DON'T BE SO STIFF!

NOT JUST YET, THAT IS!♡

.....

INSTEAD OF LOOKING FOR A PERSON, WHY DON'T YOU LOOK FOR SOMEWHERE TO WET YOUR WHISTLE?

I'LL GIVE YOU THIRTY PERCENT OFF!

SUCH YOUNG SKIN!♡

IT'S NO GOOD ASKING AROUND HERE.

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME, YOUKOU.

WHAT'S "WET MY WHISTLE"?

SO YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE SHIKAGURA?

HUH? THIS GUY...

WHAA?

HE'S TIA'S CUSTOMER...?

GIGI (SMASH)

HUH?

!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT—

PIKIKI (CRACKLE)

NO!

A PERSON !?

Aiiee

WHA...? A JUMPER!?

...A SPIDER!

LET GO OF ME, LADY! MY LEFT ARM'S DANGEROUS!

R-RIGHT, BUT...

GYUU (SQUEEZE)

AIIEEE! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!?

CLICK!

RELEASE YOUR GEARS, YOUKOU!!

OVER THERE!

.....

GURYU (SLURP)

NOOOOO!

BYURU (TWIRL)

Clic..

YO—

.....

LA-CK!

DON
(BLAM)

...WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE GETTIN' UP TO WHILE I SHOWER, HUH?

ZAWA
(MURMUR)

KATSU
(TAK)

WHA ...?

A GUN?

IT TOOK DOWN THE SPIDER WITH ONE HIT...!?

THIS IS WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET THOSE BREAST IMPLANTS...

...TIA.

WHO ARE YOU...?

...THANK YOU FOR THE HELP.

ACHOO!

...IF YOU WANT TO THANK ME, THEN TREAT ME TO A HOT CUP OF COFFEE...

...JACKALOPES.

NOBI COFFEE

COFFEE

!?

WE'RE FAMOUS?

YOU KNOW US?

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE ACTUALLY CHOOSES TO BECOME A MONSTER, YOU KNOW.

KINDA.

YOU GUYS GOTTA DO YOUR JOBS RIGHT.

NOT THAT SORT OF TROUBLE.

"FRIEND"...? OH, HIM. HE'S TOUGH, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HIM.

THAT ASIDE...

...THAT FRIEND OF YOURS IS TROUBLE.

...OH WELL. FOR NOW, JUST MAKE SURE HE'S REALLY A FRIEND.

SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY IS ALWAYS SAYING...

...EVERYONE IS BOTH BLACK AND WHITE, YOU KNOW?

THEY HAVE INSIDES AND OUTSIDES, LIES AND TRUTH, MASKS AND BARE FACES.

HE SAYS IT ALL THE TIME.

I COULDN'T HANDLE IT.

.....BUT IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE TO SOMEONE...

...TRYING TO WORK OUT WHICH SIDE IS REAL... YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED.

WHILE YOU'RE TRYING TO PEEK INSIDE, AT SOME POINT, IT'LL BE YOUR STUFFING ON VIEW.

...?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE ADVICE?

HMM.

ACHOO!

MY WOMAN'S DEAD...SO I GUESS I JUST WANTED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, YOU KNOW?

...SO WAIT, *YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET?*

WHAT?

UGH.

HEY!

I GOT THE SUGAR. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH IT ANYWAY?

BAG: SUPERFINE SUGAR

SUGAR IS HEALTHY

DOZAZAZA (POOOOUR)

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
(DOOM)
ZU
ZU
ZU
DOROOOO (GLOOP)
HINOBI COFFEE
AHH...
HINOBI COFFEE
BASA (FLAP)
DING-DING-DING!
AH!
A-ARE YOU SOME SORT OF MONSTER!?
HINOBI COFFEE
HUH?

THANKS FOR THE SWEET TIME AND THE COFFEE...

...MY FOOLISH LITTLE ROOKIES.

OBI COFFEE

A GEAR.

THIS IS THE MAN FROM THE PICTURE AKUTA-NII MENTIONED!

SH—

SHIKAGURA !!?

AND THE MARK OF A SPIDER ON HIS FOREHEAD.

GET BACK HERE!!

WHERE DID HE GO!?

DAMN!

HOW COULD YOU NOT NOTICE THAT, YOU DUMB-ASS!?

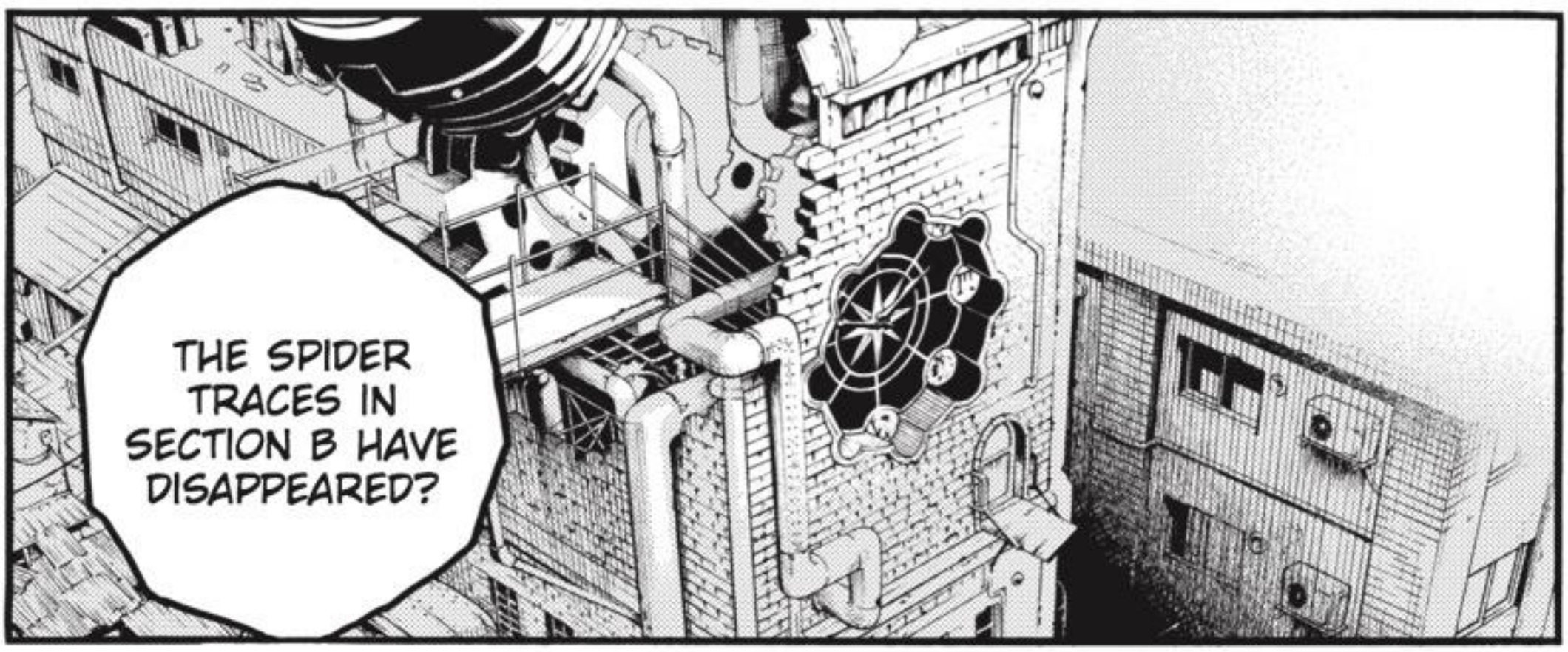
SHUT UP. GO NORTH AND LOOK FOR HIM!

...HA.

THOSE TWO REALLY DO GET ON WELL.

I JUST HOPE YOU WON'T HAVE TO KILL EACH OTHER...

...ONE OF THESE DAYS.



...ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR THEM?

HUH? NO, NO. I WON'T GO AGAINST ORDERS.

OH, I GET IT. SO THAT'S WHY THE SHIKAGURA DON'T GIVE OFF SPIDER READINGS. THEY DON'T HAVE THE HEADS.

COULD IT BE NEAR DEATH OR DEAD?

THE SCAN DETECTS ANIMAL HEADS, RIGHT?

.....

...BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. SERIOUSLY!

AND YOU'VE BEEN INFLATING THE DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS FOR SOMETHING YOU'RE PLANNING...

I MEAN, YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING AROUND WITH THE HACKING SYSTEMS AFTER HOURS, BOSS...

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Clock Rock VISITOR

PI (BEEP)

...WAIT, HUH?

A VISITOR?

KNOCK-KNOCK.

KNOCK-KNOCK.

...I HAVE THOUGHT AND THOUGHT ABOUT THIS, AND IN THE END...

CLANG.

AND STOP "KNOCKING" WITH YOUR VOICE...

WHO IS IT?

...IN ORDER TO SETTLE THINGS, I HAVE COME TO KILL YOU ALL.

BOOM!

BEEP! BEEP!

A MEMBER OF THE SHIKAGURA HAS INFILTRATED THE BASE!

BEEP!

CALL IN SOMEONE WHO'S NOT ON SHIFT!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET AHOLD OF ANYONE IF THEY DON'T HAVE THEIR COMMS ON?

STILL...

...IT'S JUST ONE OLD MAN. WE CAN TAKE HIM DOWN SOMEH—

PIKIKI (CRIK)

VZUZU (SLITHER)

!

NO ONE'S BACK FROM DEALING WITH THAT LAST SPIDER YET.

WE HAVE NO FORCES HERE RIGHT NOW!?

...IS A SPECTACLE TO MOURN THE PASSING OF A FAMILY MEMBER.

OH.

...THIS IS BAD.

GAGI (KASHING)

I HOLD NO GRUDGE AGAINST YOU. ALL I WISH FOR...

HFF!

IT'S NOT THE COFFEE GUY FROM EARLIER...?

HAFF...

...A MEMBER OF THE SHIKAGURA...?

HUH?

PIKIKI (CRACK)

CLICK

...OH WELL!

CLICK

MONSTERS WHO KILL...

...AND MONSTERS WHO ARE KILLED.

WHILE SOME LAUGH, SOME CRY.

...THERE ARE...

...TWO TYPES OF MONSTERS GATHERED HERE.

CLASH

ONE PUNCH MAN

JINSEI KATAOKA,
KAZUMA KONDOU

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START

16

201

KAKUJOU

SUBJECT FOUND.

KURAMA-SAMA HAS ORDERED US TO BRING YOU BACK.

HUH?

WE MUST CHECK A FEW THINGS FIRST.

QUESTION ONE: WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

空室
VACANT
I...
I'M...
...MIRAI...
KAKUJOU.



#16

CODEPENDENCE

BEEP

BEEP

YOU HAVE SOME NERVE, SHIKAGURA.

...AND TWO OF US!

THERE'S ONLY ONE OF YOU...

GO (THWACK)

!!!

(65)

...UP!

WE'LL BACK YOU...

THERE HE IS!

GAKIKI (GRIND)

HEAVY... AND FAST...

PI (PLIP)

AH!

GAHK...

...

GUH!

PUCHI (POP)

MEGIGI (CRUNCH)

...DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, BLACK DEMONS.

HA!

HA!

HA!

I WILL CRUSH AND CRUSH AND SMASH YOU TO A PASTE! LET THE BLOOD FLOW! SPURT-SPLURT!!

I MAY BE ONE, BUT I HAVE FOUR ARMS.

YOU WEAK, WEAK, MESSY-MINDED BLACK DEMONS!

<OLD MAN MAJIMA>
ARTYPE SPIDER (SERPENT MODEL)

THE IRON-FISTED, EIGHT-FORKED SERPENT

I'LL SLAUGHTER YOU!

GAKON

GAGON (KA-THUNK)

NON-COMBATANTS HAVE BEEN SECURED!

OKAY!

ENGAGE THE BARRIER WALLS!

NAH.

Isn't this rundown clock tower in trouble!?

A Shikagura came right to us! Isn't that bad!?

BAGOON (THWACK)

EVEN ARALE-CHAN* WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DESTROY IT.

I PERSONALLY REFITTED THE CLOCK ROCK.

BAGOO

OH-OHHH?

*THE SUPER-STRONG GIRL ROBOT PROTAGONIST OF THE MANGA DR. SLUMP BY AKIRA TORIYAMA.

JAKIN (KASHINK)

In that case...the time has come...

...for my powered muscle-suit creation to be revealed!!

KACHI (CLICK)

Rapid charging!!

FIVE HOURS TO FULL CHARGE.

0.02%

GO FOR IT, YOUKOU-KUN, KOTOHARU!

ALL RIGHT!

Just you wait, Shikagura!

WOOOO

GARARA

GARA (CRUMBLE)

STAB-STAB!

GRIND-GRIND! POUND-POUND!

NOXIOUS GAS, FUME-FUME!

AND HE CAN EXPAND THEM AND CONTRACT THEM AT WILL.

THREE HUNDRED SIXTY DEGREES ...

HE TRULY IS A...

...THE HELL'S WITH THIS OLD MAN?

HE'S SO STRONG I WOULDN'T WANNA GIVE UP PRIORITY SEATING FOR HIM!

MONSTER!

...NOW, NOW. I HAVE NO ILL WILL TOWARD YOU.

I CANNOT JUST SIT IDLY BY.

DESTROYING THE BLACK DEMONS WILL SETTLE THINGS!

WE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN RELATED BY BLOOD, BUT ONE OF MY FAMILY GAVE HER LIFE FOR THIS!

I HAD A LITTLE SISTER LIKE THAT TOO.

.....

GIGI (KRRK)

I KNOW JUST HOW IMPORTANT FAMILY IS!

THAT'S FAMILY RULE NUMBER THREE!

GUGU (STRAIN)

...I SEE.

...THIS STRENGTH DOESN'T COME FROM BEING A MONSTER, BUT FROM HONOR.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE ANY REAL GRUDGE...

...AGAINST YOU EITHER, OLD MAN.

IT'S JUST...

...THAT THE SHIKAGURA KILLED MASTER SHIBA!!

EXCELLENT!

YOU GOTTA WATCH THE ENTIRE BODY.

LISTEN UUUP!

!

THERE!

AH! IDIOT!

DON'T STOP.

THE NEXT ONE'S COOOMING!

!!

GYURURU (WRAP)

DON'T FIGHT YOUR OWN FLOOOW.

TRUST IT.

ZUZU (SLICE)

I CAN'T BLOCK THE NEXT—

NO!

JUST WAIT.

SEE?

HA!

...I SEE. SO YOU ARE A FOUR-ARMED CREATURE AS WELL, ARE YOU?

BIKIKI—

BIKI (CREAK)

HOWEVER, I WILL NOT LOSE!

PIKI (CRACK)

I TOOK THIS FORM MOMENTS BEFORE AN INTRUDER COULD KILL ME.

I HAD NOTHING WHEN I WAS HUMAN.

I COULD NEVER FEAR DYING FOR THAT!!

EVEN INSANE, WE ARE FAMILY.

BUT!!

MUGIGI (BULGE)

I BECAME MY TRUE SELF AFTER BECOMING A SHIKA-GURA!!

EVEN SEPARATED, WE ARE FAMILY.



QUESTION FOUR: WHO IS YOUR FAMILY?

...UM.

MY... FAMILY.

WHEN MY HEAD WAS ALL SPINNY...

...I WAS... WITH THE SHIKAGURA. I DIDN'T... HATE THEM.

THEY WERE WEIRD, BUT... NICE...LIKE... THE OLD MAN.

BUT... YEAH...

...MY REAL... FAMILY...

...IS ONII-CHAN.

I'M GONNA MAKE THIS A FAMILY RULE!

IT'S JUST LIKE KAKUJOU-SAN SAID!

?

AND THEY'RE ONLY THIRTY YEN.

FRESH CROQUETTES ARE SO YUMMYYY!

.....

I WONDER HOW THEY MAKE THEM!

.....

WE...CAN BE FAMILY?

THE KIDS AT SCHOOL SAY WE'RE NOT...

"FOOD TASTES BETTER WHEN YOU SHARE IT WITH FAMILY."

THAT'S HOW I FEEL ANYWAY.

?

DO YOU NOT WANT TO BE?

YEAH.

I COULD EAT THE WHOLE FIELD OF POTATOES!

BUN

BUN (SHAKE)

N-NO!

AFTER ALL, THIS IS REALLY YUMMY!





CAKE: ONII-CHAN



...OH, THAT GIRL.

...SHE'S A NEW-COMER...

...BUT SHE IS A SHIKAGURA.

...I WANT TO SEE HIM...

SHE WAS THINKING OF HER BROTHER AND CRYING.

SO THAT WAS YOU?

...BUT...

...THAT MEANS...

...SHE REALLY IS ALIVE?

IT'S NOT A LOOK-ALIKE...

...SHE'S A SPIDER, RIGHT?

WHAT IF THERE ARE OTHER SPIDERS WITH WILLS OF THEIR OWN, LIKE THE SHIKAGURA...?

GAJI GAJI (GNAW)

COULD MY SISTER'S TECH REALLY PRODUCE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN—

YOU HUNK OF JUNK.

SHUT UP.

GRAAAAH!

Arrrrrgh! Just four hours and forty minutes till full charge!!

I TOLD YOU WHAT I KNOW.

BORO

BORO (CRUMBLE)

IT WAS A GREATER DEFEAT THAN I EXPECTED, BUT...

...I SETTLED THINGS WITH EVERYTHING I HAD.

UNDERSTOOD? YOU YOUNG'UNS WILL DIE EASILY.

...THE REST OF THE SHIKAGURA ARE REALLY, REALLY STRONG.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

ALL WE CAN THINK ABOUT ARE OUR DEAD FRIENDS...AND MASTER SHIBA...

...WE'RE THE SAME AS YOU, OLD MAN.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

XII

THAT'S NEVER GOING TO END UNTIL WE DESTROY THE SHIKAGURA. NOTHING WILL START EITHER.

...HA!

THE SAME, HUH?

HA.

HA.

BORO (CRUMBLE)

...THEN I SUPPOSE COMING TO SETTLE THINGS FIRST MEANS I WIN.

...SETTLING THINGS... HUH?

I WANNA SETTLE THINGS TOO.

...UNDER-STOOD. I'LL LOOK FOR THE SWEET-TOOTH MAN.

KATSUN (TAK)

Hey, you're still hurt...

BUT FIRST, I WANNA FIND MY SISTER.

ZA (SKFF)

SHE HAS FEW MEMORIES FROM AFTER TRANSFORMATION.

RESPONSES INDICATE SHE HAS ALSO REGAINED MEMORIES OF HER TIME BEFORE TRANSFORMATION.

THE SUBJECT HAS REGAINED MOST OF HER LINGUISTIC FUNCTION.

...THE QUESTIONING IS DONE.

THUS...

NOW—WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO RETURN TO AMENOTORI HEADQUARTERS WITH US.

JAZAN (SHINK)

HUH?

NO WAY.

PAKI (SNAP)

GYUKI
(ZWIP)

I'M...

...REALLY, REALLY FAST NOW!

<MIRAI KAKUJOU> ARTYPE SPIDER
LONG-LEGGED MOON RABBIT

TON (TMP)

!!

WAIT...

DOGYU (FWOOSH)

BYE-BYE!



A kind, kind little girl...

...saved an injured bird.

CHIRP

CHIRP-CHIRP!

The bird, revived...

...sang a little song.

EH HEH.

The kind, kind little girl...

...saved an injured kitten.

The kitten, revived...

CHOMP-CHOMP!

...ate the bird up.

MEOW

#17

The kind, kind little girl.

The little girl was hurt.

The little girl realized something.



Q: WHat SHOULD tHe girl DO about tHE Cat WitH its MOUtH all reD?

#17

ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE

KACHI (TICK)

...I'M GOING TO BREAK THE SECOND KNUCKLE!

OKAY, IT'S BEEN THREE MINUTES. NEXT...

...GH...!

...KH!

.....!

BEKIN (CRACK)

HEH HEH! ♡

YOU'RE SO STRONG, MII-NEECHAN!

THAT'S WHY YOU TRIED TO SAVE ME WHEN I ASKED YOU TO.

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD SAVE THE INNOCENT LITTLE KID FROM HIS BASTARD OF AN ABUSIVE FATHER?

.....

...THIS IS MIDARI AT POINT FOUR-TWENTY.

PI (BEEP)

I'LL BE BREAKING AND ENTERING TOO.

SO GO AHEAD AND COME UP WITH SOME EXCUSE FOR THAT.

I MAY USE MY GEARS FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN A SPIDER.

What!?

Hey...!

BUTSUN (BOOP)

GACHA (KA-CHAK)

BUT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN INNOCENT LITTLE KID, YOU KNOW.

...HERE?

HELLO?

IS THE BASTARD FATHER OF MY FRIEND...

A VIDEO CAMERA?

KON CTHUNK

MMMPH!

MF!

SCREEN: PLAY

再生 -09

ZA (KRAKL)

SFX: ZAKU (STAB) ZAKU ZAKU ZAKU ZAKU

GUCHA (SQUELCH)

BAKIN (CRUNCH)

AAAH!

OW, OW, OW! OW!

BOOZE! BOOZE, BOOZE!

OO!

GII (CREAK)

Ah! Don't hit me!

That huuurts!

He's still not dead.

Monsters are just amazing. They're nothing like bugs or dogs.

Playing with Dad reeeally calms me down.

GUCHA

BUPU (SPRT)

BUJU (SPURT)

再生

.....ME.

KILL ME...

BRING... BOOZE!

BOOZE.

SPIDER TRACES DISAPPEAR...

Click!

...NEAR DEATH.

OR...

...UPON DEATH.

ZASHU (STAB) ザシュッ!

CLACK!

DOSA (THUD)

YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA HELP ME!

I CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT MY **TOYS!**

THAT'S WHAT DAD ALWAYS SAID ABOUT ME, WHENEVER HE—

I CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT DAD!

YOU CAN CHANGE...

NO!

...YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT TOO.

LIKE THIS?

HOTEL Sweet Time

...DO YOU REGRET LETTING ME GO THAT TIME?

KH...!

PEGIN
(CRACK)

ARE YOU NOT PUTTING UP A FIGHT AS SOME SORT OF SELF-PUNISHMENT?

YOU REALLY ARE KIND.

WHEN DID YOU STOP LOOKING SPIDERS IN THE EYE WHEN YOU KILL THEM?

—HEY, MIDARI.

.....

OH WELL.

...JUST BE CAREFUL.

MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOUR FLOWER FADE SOMEDAY.

WHOA. THAT'S CREEPY, SHIBA-SAN.

GOGIN (SNAP)

...!

...THAT'S A REAL SHAME.

YOU HAVE FEELING IN YOUR ARTIFICIAL LEG, RIGHT?

GI (CREAK).

MIJI (SQUEEZE)

EACH BAND CAN TWIST AND SQUEEZE IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

KACHA (CLICK)

I MADE THIS SHACKLE JUST FOR YOU, MII-NEECHAN.

BAKIN (SNAP)

...I'M JUST AS TWISTED AS EVER.

AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF YOUR FELLOW BLACK DEMONS DIED BECAUSE OF THAT.

KACHA (CLICK)

GI

...?

OH, BUT I KIDNAPPED YOU PARTWAY THROUGH, SO YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT, DID YOU?

TAKE THAT OLD MAN WITH THE LONG HAIR AND SHAVED SIDES...

HE FELL INTO MY TRAP AND DIED PATHETICALLY TRYING TO GET OUT.

HE'S INCREDIBLY STRONG.

NO WAY.

AND HE DIED BECAUSE OF YOU, MII-NEECHAN!

MEGIN (SNAP)

BAKIN (CRACK)

I DON'T HAVE ANY TOY BUT YOU!

!!

AH!

AAA A!

YOU'RE CRYING!?

I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU FOR SURE! I WON'T LET YOU LIVE, BUT I WON'T LET YOU DIE EITHER!

YOU'RE FINALLY CRYING!? CRYING!? CRYYYING!?

I'VE BEEN GETTING LOTS AND LOTS OF PRACTICE JUST FOR THIS!

I'LL TOTALLY CRUSH LOTS AND LOTS OF THE THINGS YOU LOVE!

HOTEL SWEET TIME

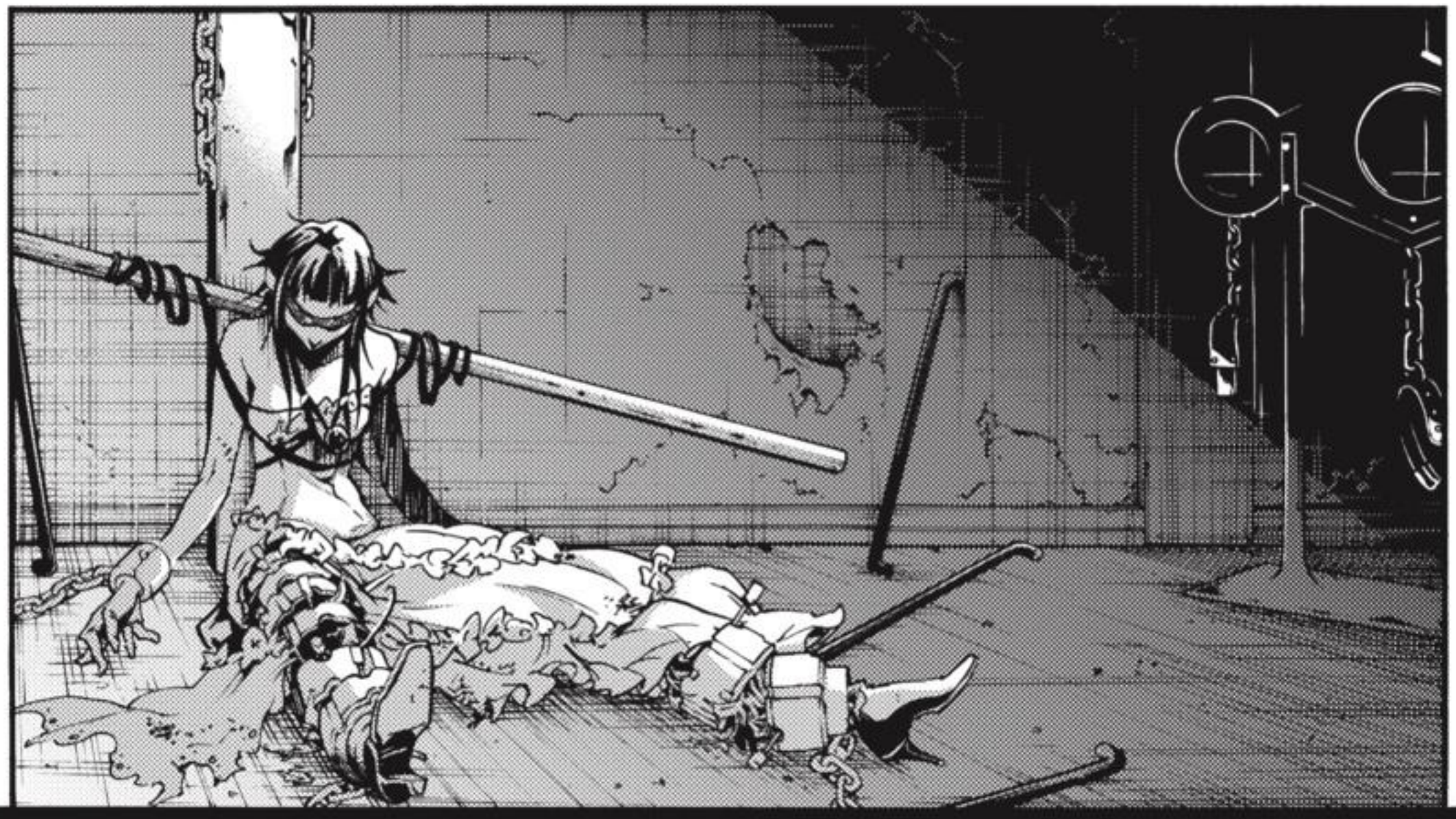
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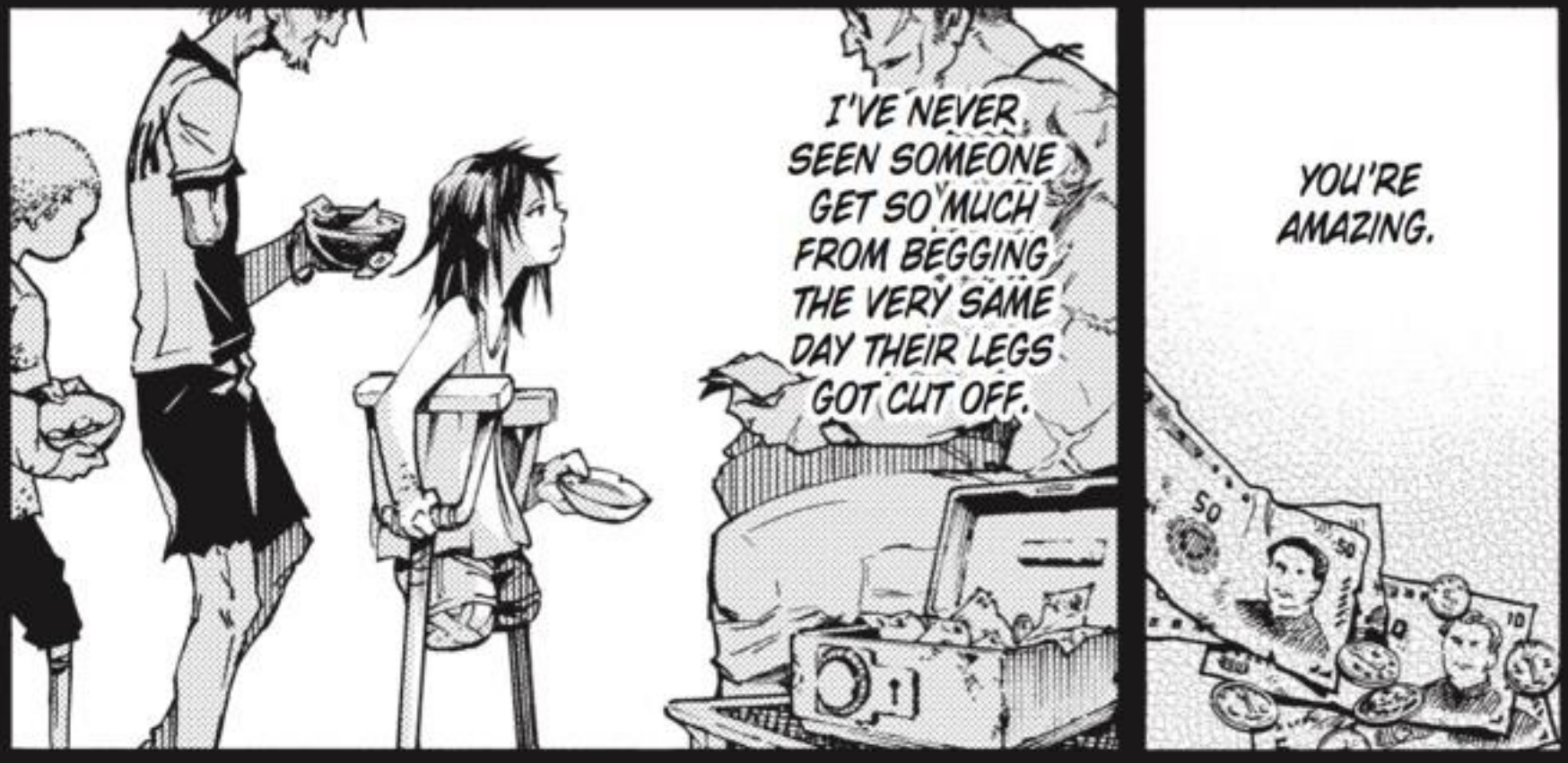
SO THIS'S THE BASE THE OLD SNAKE GUY WAS TALKING ABOUT?

HOTEL Sweet TIME


201


SO THERE ARE CASTLES LIKE THE ONES FROM GAMES HERE IN JAPAN?
I WONDER WHY.




I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE GET SO MUCH FROM BEGGING THE VERY SAME DAY THEIR LEGS GOT CUT OFF.
YOU'RE AMAZING.

THAT'S 'COS YOU WERE TRYING TO TAKE OUR GOODS!

MIDARI NEVER MESSES UP.

THAT'LL BE A BIG HELP.

YOU'RE REALLY STRONG.

BUT THAT GIRL BEAT ME UP TOO.

LUCY

HUH?

THE JACKALOPES SCOUTED YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE SO STRONG?

MARRY M—

I'LL PASS, MATSUGO-CHAN.

DINER

YOU REALLY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AMAZING, MIDARI-NEE!

...AREN'T YOU BEING A BIT TOO EASY ON YOUR LITTLE STRAY?

HIS BONES AND BRAIN ARE TOTALLY FRIED BY ALL THE DRUGS.

HIS GEARS'LL BE WEAK BECAUSE HE'S WEAK.

...I'LL SAVE HIM IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.

...KNOW WHAT?

...THEY SAY PEOPLE WHO'RE TOO NICE HAVE REALLY LOW SELF-ESTEEM.

GAGARA!

GIMME BACK MY SUGAR!

HEY!

DON'T SNAP! I WAS JUST WORRIED...

OW!

JAKI (KCHAK)

DOKAA (WHACK)

I KNEW THAT.

IF I...

...HAD BEEN STRONGER...!

IF I...

...HADN'T BEEN WRONG...

HUH?

WHY AM I SO...

NO.

IT WAS IMPOSSI-BLE.

MAYBE I COULD HAVE SAVED THEM...

HOTEL
SWEET TIME

MIRAAAI!

YOU IN HERE?

SHIT.

WAIT, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER SHIKAGURA HERE TOO.

I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHEN I LOOK.

...
PATHETIC...?

...SO...

SWEETING

Click.

CAREFUL...

QUIET, QUIIIIET.

DO

DO (BLAM)

DO

DO

DO

PU
(PTOO)

!?

...!

KARAN
(CLATTER)

KATSU (TAKK)

HE SAID HE WAS GONNA LOOK FOR BIG SIS MIDARI...

MATSUGO!?

GAN

231

BUT

211

GAN

104

GAN CWHAM

GAN

I WAS WONDERING WHAT SCAAAARY DEMON WAS STOMPING AROUND HERE.

ARE YOU SHITTING ME?

BOKO (BURBLE)

コ?

I'M TRYING TO PLAY WITH MII-NEECHAN HERE!

ZURU (ZLURK)

BUT IT'S JUST A PATHETIC LITTLE WEAKLING.

TIME FOR LITTLE KIDS TO GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU BAS—

TARO!

ZUBE (THUD)

OOF.

MEKIKI (CRACKLE)

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU BOWL-CUT PRICK.

SO EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED WITH THE SHIKAGURA IS MY FAULT...

HE'S...A SPIDER I LET SLIDE ONE TIME.

...MATSUGO.

SORRY.

!

GA (YANK)

FUCK THAT!

DON'T TRY TO BE THE TRAGIC HEROINE, YOU DUMB BITCH!

...MIDARI-NEE.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU TOOK ME IN?



...THAT THE PERVERTS HAD CRUSHED?

WHEN YOU HELD MY HANDS...

COME WITH ME.

I'M NOT PAYING YOU ANYTHING. I DON'T NEED ANY "SERVICES."

I CAN ONLY OFFER LIMITED SERVICES, BUT...

MY HANDS AREN'T WORKING SO GOOD RIGHT NOW.

OH!

ARE YOU A CUSTOMER?

YOU'RE PRETENDING MISERY CAN'T BEAT YOU. YOU'RE PRETENDING TO SMILE, EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT TO DIE. YOU'RE PRETENDING YOUR HEART IS AN EMPTY WORM.

INSTEAD...

YOU CAN STOP NOW.

夢

人

生

...THAT WOULD BE THE WORST TORTURE I'VE EVER BEEN THROUGH.

...NO MATTER HOW MUCH...

...NO.

HOW MUCH YOU SAY NO, HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE, HOW MUCH YOU GO CRAZY...

...I'M GOING TO BE REALLY, REALLY NICE TO YOU LIKE A NORMAL PERSON. SO PREPARE YOURSELF.

YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT.

...YOU'RE REALLY COOL, MIDARI-NEE.

YOU'RE STRONG.

—IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT ME TO THINK?

BUT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH MISERY.

OF COURSE I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT YOU'RE A WEAK, VULNERABLE PERSON YOURSELF!

HOW...

...DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT...?

I HAVE TO ACCEPT...

...MY PUNISH-MENT.

...STOP, PLEASE.

PUNISHMENT FOR PRETENDING TO BELIEVE THAT HE...THAT THE SHIKAGURA BOY WASN'T EVIL, AND RUNNING AWAY.

SO DON'T SAVE ME.

NO.

GUI (PULL)

CLANK

AND THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SAVE YOU!

YOU DESPERATELY TRY TO PUT ON A STRONG FACE AND WON'T SHOW THE LEAST BIT OF WEAKNESS.

I'VE BEEN WORKING MY BUTT OFF ALL THIS TIME TO SAVE YOU IN RETURN!

GO
(THUNK)

"NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU SAY NO, HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE, HOW MUCH YOU GO CRAZY...

"...I'M GOING TO BE REALLY, REALLY NICE TO YOU LIKE A NORMAL PERSON. SO PREPARE YOURSELF."

...!

.....

THAT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR MAKING ME FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU.

...YOUR GLASSES ...

...REALLY HURT.

...MII-NEECHAN...

...IS MY TOY.

BOKO (THUNK)

!

...DOING HERE...?

WHAT THE HELL AM I...

I FEEL LIKE I JUST SAW... SOMETHING.

.....

SHE ONLY GETS TO CRY FOR MEEEEE!

<MIKURO>
ARTYPE SPIDER

THE THREE-LEGGED CROW THAT EATS ANYTHING

Click.

...!

GEARS AT A HUNDRED TWENTY PERCENT...

DON'T, MATSUGO!

ZUZURUU (SLORP)

...RIGHT TO YOUR ARTIFICIAL LIMB, YOU WHORE!

YOU CAN TAKE FIFTY THOUSAND VOLTS...

KZZOM

BAGIN (SNAP)

STOP IT, YOU—

ZABU (SHNK)

...TO MY MII-NEECHAN, YOU WEAKLING!?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...

GRK!

GASU (STAB)

...A HUNDRED FIFTY PERCENT ...

GIN (CLANK)

!?

ZOKU (SHUDDER)

THIS IS MY FIGHT. TAKE THE HINT...

...GOT IT?

HANDS... OFF.

GAKON (KA-THUNK)

...THIS IS DEFINITELY SOUND IN THEORY.

YOU ARE FORBIDDEN FROM INTERFERING WITH THE SHIKAGURA ANY FURTHER.

GUI (GRAB)

—THE JACKALOPES DON'T CARE ABOUT MIDARI-NEE.

I DON'T NEED ANYONE LIKE THAT ON MY SIDE!

HI HI!!

DOSA (THUD)

BOGO (BLRK)

HFF! HFF!

GO (WHUD)

KA (SHING)

...“HANDS OFF.”

GOT IT!

ZA (ZSH)

DO

DO

DO

DO (SHUNK)

JUST STAY OUT OF IT!

HEY! YOUR LEGS TOO!

RIGHT FROM THE START, HE'S ALWAYS PUSHED HIMSELF TO AN EXTREME THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

SHIT.

MY LEG'S BROKE.

...WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS GUY!?

IT'S LIKE HE'S NOT ATTACHED TO HIS OWN BODY AT ALL.

CAN I HIT HIM ONCE TO SETTLE THINGS?

...BUT YOU KNOW, THERE'S STILL ALL THAT STUFF WITH OLD MAN SHIBA.

CLACK

—NO.

ZURU (DRAG)

PITA (FREEZE)

...I NEED TO SETTLE THIS.

ZURU (DRAG)



THE KIND, KIND LITTLE GIRL...



A: PET THE CAT GENTLY, SAYING, "YOU'RE ALL BETTER NOW."



MIKURO.

I'M SO SORRY.

I COULDN'T SAVE YOU.

CLACK

CLACK

—YOU WERE KIND ALL THE WAY TO THE END.

GARA (CRUMBLE)

YOU'RE DESPICABLE.

WHOA.

...HE'S DEAD!?

NO, DUMBASS.

HE BROKE THE WALL HIMSELF JUST NOW.

DAMN IT...

HE GOT AWAY...!

THE OLD SNAKE MAN FROM BEFORE AND THIS KID DID A NUMBER ON ME TOO, BUT I'M FINE.

I'LL GET BY ON GUTS!

BORO (CRMBL)

NO WAY. YOU'RE REALLY DOING BAD!!

...MATSUGO.

YOUR GEARS ARE NINETY PERCENT DESTROYED.

MINE ARE TOO, OF COURSE.

ZUGIN (CRACK)

I'LL GO AFTER HIM...

...AND KILL HIM...!

Um...

!?

Sorry for not being trustworthy or mobile enough.

All that stuff about not caring about Midari-nee and everything...

...You never turned off your comms, so we can kind of hear you.

—Could you at least let your teammates take care of the rest?

HEY.
CAN I HAVE MY SKETCH-BOOK BACK NOW?
AND MY PAINTS?
SORRY, JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE.
WHO'S THAT?
"HORN"... "UP"?
!
NOTE: "KAKUJOU" IS WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR "HORN" AND "UP."
YOUKOU KAKUJOU...
MISSING
RED
DESCRIPTION:
° COOL
° EATS A LOT
YOUKOU KAKUJOU

YOU KNOW ONII-CHAN?

!

YOUKOU KAKUJOU

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO SEE HIM.

I'M HIS SISTER! I REALLY WANNA SEE HIM, BUT HE'S NOT AT HOME

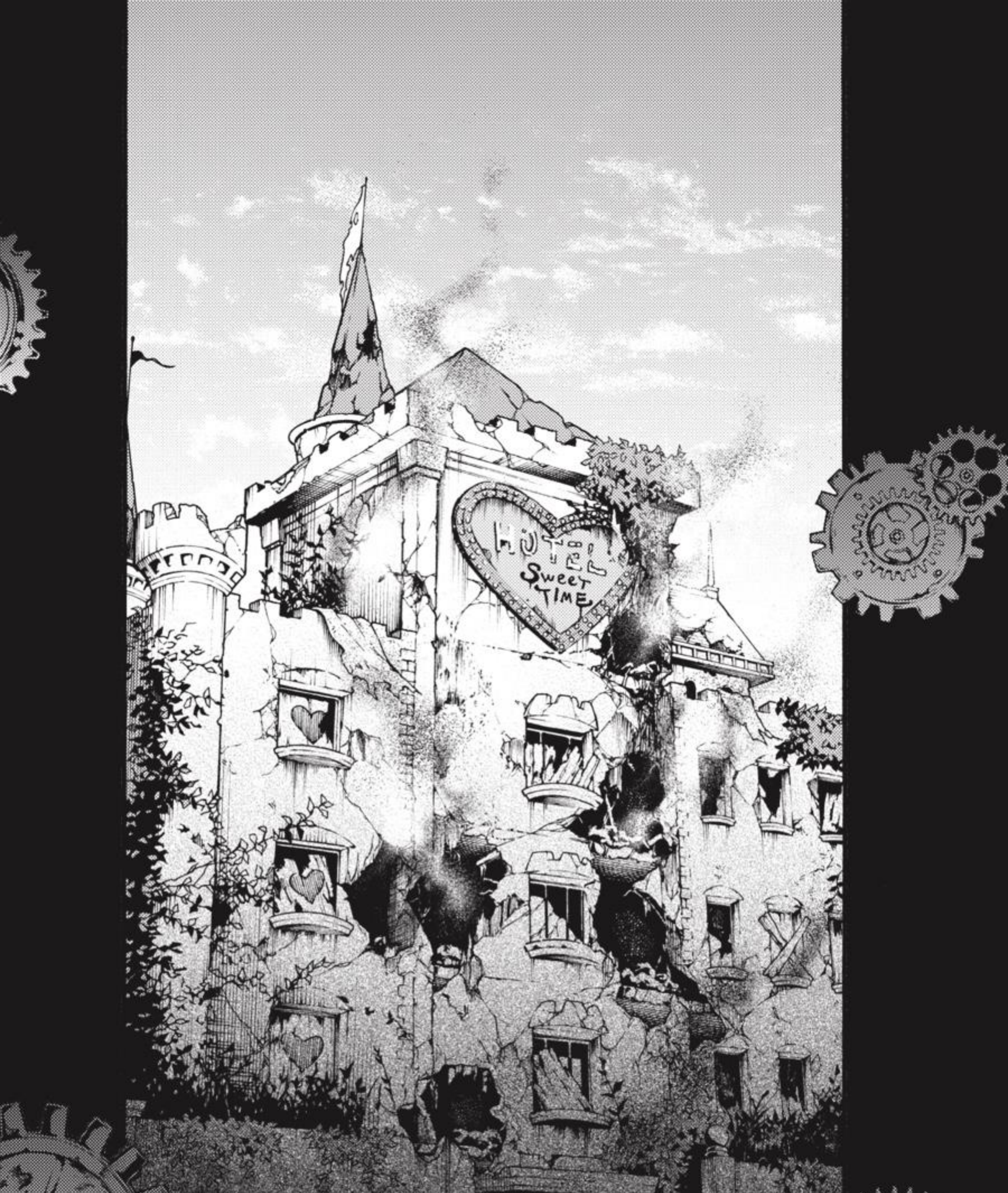
WHERE IS HE RIGHT NOW?

WHAA?

WHOA!

YES.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME, BUNNY GIRL?



#18

A CHILL DOWN ONE'S SPINE

THE SHIKAGURA GOT AWAY!

HFF.

WHICH WAY? AFTER HIM!

INITIATING SCAN.

HFF. HFF.

ZURU (DRAG)

LET'S GET REVENGE FOR OUR TEAMMATES!!

I'M SO SORRY.

HA...

WEREN'T WE FORBIDDEN FROM GOING AFTER THE SHIKAGURA!?

WHAT'S EVERYONE DOING HERE...?

P.

WE AREN'T QUITE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO RUSH OUT AND ACT ON OUR FIRST IMPULSES LIKE YOU DID...

...BUT WE'RE NOT QUITE SMART ENOUGH TO TURN OUR BACKS EITHER.

—Please say that if the boss, Lady Emma, gets mad at you!

THE REST IS UP TO YOU!

SUCH AN ADULT!

AN ADULT WHO DOESN'T PLAY FAIR.

We all just HAPPENED to go out for a nice, leisurely stroll together, and we ran across an unidentified spider.

THUS! We are dealing with it seriously at full force, as the manual dictates!

THIS...is not going against orders!

KRAP!

THEY HAVE LEFT THE CLOCK ROCK...OUR HOME BASE, COMPLETELY DESERTED.

THEY TRULY ARE...

...A FOOLISH BUNCH OF COGS WHO DO NOT EVEN GRASP THE CONCEPT OF "ORDERS."

WHAT IS MOST PRESSING RIGHT NOW...

...IS THE ANOMALY OUT HERE ON THE NORTHERN BORDER...

BOLD BOLT

ZURU (DRAG)

ZU

WHAT THE HELL...

GRK!

ALL RIGHT—

GASHA (CLATTER)

CLICK

FOUND THE SHIKAGURA!

!

ZURU (DRAG)

HFF.

...IS THAT?

AH.

ALL OF THEM.

GO

BOGO (BURBLE)

アーHRAA

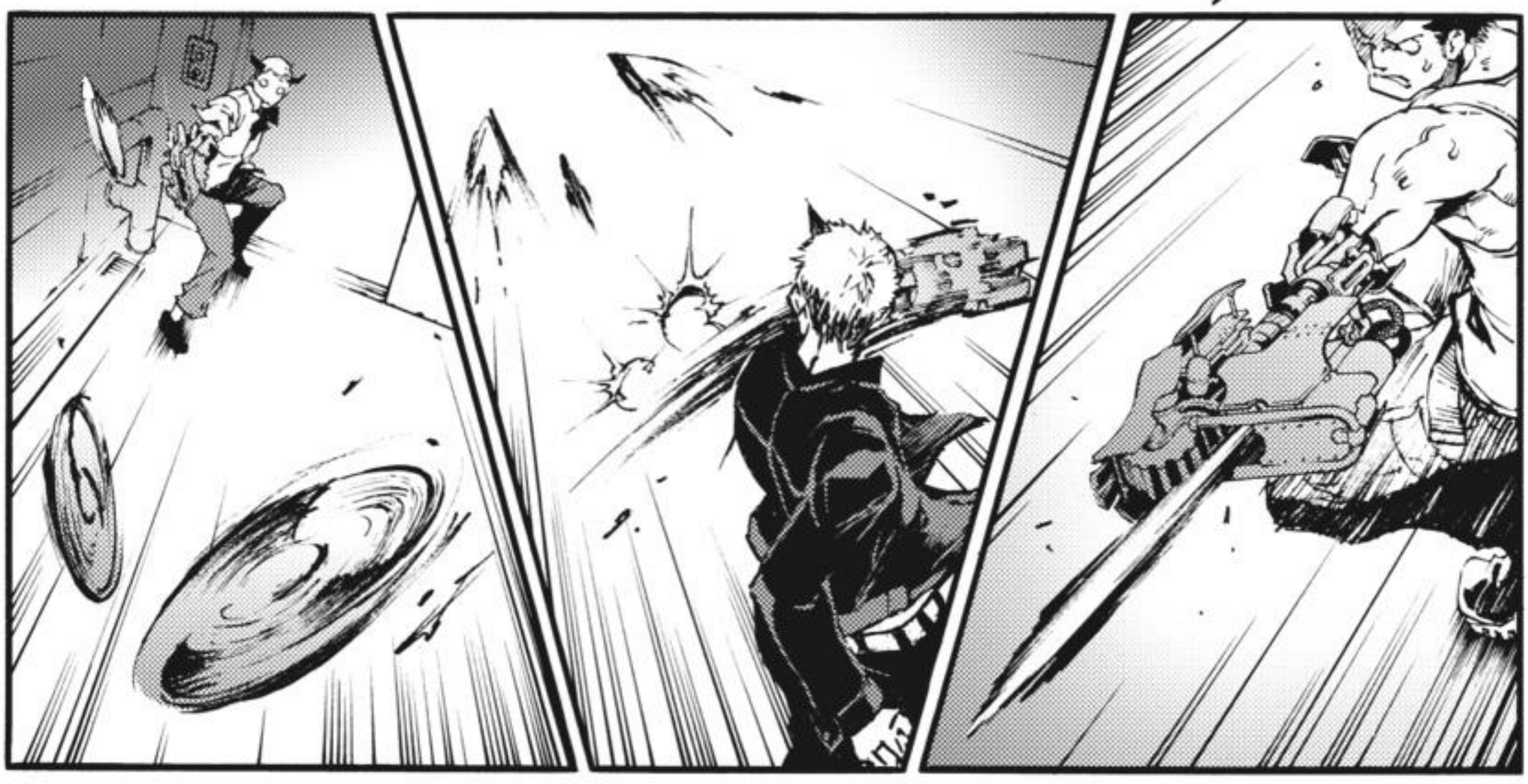
アーAAH!

I'LL RIP THEM ALL TO SHREDS!

I'LL TEAR THEM TO PIECES AND GIVE THEM THREE SECONDS TO BEG FOR THEIR LIVES.

I'LL CRUSH THEM ALL TO BITS!

ハーハー



MAYBE THE OTHER SHIKAGURA AREN'T HERE?

GII (CREAK)

IT'S NOT LIKE AKUTA-NII NOT TO BE HERE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

GOT IT.

We're engaged with one Shikagura at point Twenty-Eight A!

MAYBE HE HAS A LOT OF THEM?

THE COFFEE MAN'S HAT...?

THESE ARE ODD CIGA-RETTES.

AMENOTORI

!

A DATA CHIP?

PIRA (FLAP)

THERE'S A PAPER HERE TOO...

AMENOTORI.

.....

I DON'T GET THIS SORT OF THING.

GATAN
(KA-CLACK)
ガタン

GOTON
(KA-CLUNK)
ゴトン

GOTOTON
ゴトトン

ゴトトン

—Now approaching the final stop.

Please disembark at Yaura Pier Station.

SIGN: TRANSIT

SHIKAGURA, HUH?

HERE I THOUGHT I'D CREATED A NEW KIND OF BEING...

THEY JUST KEEP GOING AGAINST ORDERS.

...BUT IN THE END, THEY STILL LIVE AND DIE BY HUMAN CONNECTIONS.

...OH WELL.

AAAARH!

AAAA

A DIRTY...

...SMELLY...

...TINY, NASTY...

A.A. AH.

...MONSTER.

OLD MAN MAJIMA WAS EMPTY.

FURY GOT HERSELF KILLED BY HER FAMILY.

THE NEW BUNNY GIRL'S MEMORIES WERE MANIPULATED.

GAGARA ALREADY GOT HIMSELF KILLED ONCE BY THE BLACK DEMONS.

I REALIZED FULL WELL THAT NONE OF THEM WAS DIRTIER THAN ME.

DAD ONLY EVER LOOKED AT ME WHEN HE WANTED TO HURT ME OR WHEN HE WANTED TO HURT.

SO I DID THE SAME TO MII-NEECHAN.

WHY DID I PUT A BLINDFOLD ON HER?

WHAT DID I NOT WANT HER TO SEE?

YOU REST, MIDARI-NEE.

I'LL REST TOO.

...BUT.

Target lost on the fourth floor.

He can't have gotten far with that much blood loss, though.

Got it.

...WELL.

I'M NOT SURE I DESERVE IT ANYWAY.

...DID YOU WANT TO SEE THE ABANDONED CAT'S CORPSE?

HE...

...PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT ME TO SEE.

GOPU (GLURP)

THE ELEVATOR?

...IT'S BROKEN.

WELL, MY LEG IS BROKEN, SO I CAN'T JUMP DOWN.

I'M STARVING, SO I MEANT TO GET OLD MAN AKUTA TO SCOOP ME UP LIKE MATSUGO DID JUST NOW.

WHAT? KOTOHARU?

PYOKO (HOP)

I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT AT LEAST...

...PAT MY HEAD A LITTLE—

SORRY FOR BEING A MONSTER.

SORRY FOR BEING BAD.

SORRY FOR WANTING THINGS ANYWAY.

HRA
アー!!

AA
アー!!

AH!
アー!!

GA
(THUNK)

BEKI
(SNAP)

MIJI
(CREEAK)

UH-OH,
THIS...

...IS
BAD...



I'LL SETTLE THINGS WITH THIS!

BAGIN (KA-SHUNK)

.....

MY GEAR'S HEAVY.

I'M GONNA FALL!

JUST DROP.

HUH!?

OKAY!

TAN (SHOVE)

YOU'RE REALLY HEAVY, ONII-CHAN!



MII-
NEECHAN...

...I'M GLAD
YOU'RE NOT
HERE.

AFTER
ALL...

...MY CORPSE IS UGLY TOO...

.....

...I ACTUALLY SAW THAT MOVE TWICE IN ONE DAY.

AND ON ME TOO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

...I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF HOLDING YOU IN MY ARMS...

...ONII-CHAN.

...IT'S REAL?

...BUT THIS ISN'T A LIE?

...NEVER LET GO OF THIS WHEN I WENT ALL WEIRD.

...I... ...I GUESS...

ME NEITHER.

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

.....

カチャリ (CLINK)

...!

I'M HOME, ONII-CHAN!

WELCOME BACK, MIRAI.



YOU CAN SEE WELL FROM THE TOP OF THE SHAFT.

GAKON (THUNK)

YOUKOU!?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

He's definitely somewhere near the elevator.

IT'S DARK, SO I CAN'T REALLY SEE...

!

HUH!? YOU'RE FROM UP NORTH...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

SUCH A TOUCHING FAMILY REUNION.

!?

YOUKOU KAKUJOU.

HE IS QUITE A USEFUL RESOURCE.

HE'S GONE OFF THE RAILS IN JUST THE RIGHT WAY.

CHIKA
(GLINT)

GOTOTON
(KA-CLUNK)

GATATAN
(KA-CLACK)

GATATAN



TANNED GUARDS MAKE AN ANGRY NOISE...

A GRAND NOISE.....



A HOWLING NOISE.....

AND A BREAKING NOISE.

SMOKIN' PARADE

ULTIMATE FORM!
Two and a half years from now...

SMOKIN' PARADE #04

BY JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

5

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

HEY, GAGARA.

WHAT DOES THIS SAY?

HMM.

...!

...SOMETHING I DON'T NEED ANYMORE.

BROOOM!

Screw U! Fxxk U!!

C'MON! IT'S FINE!

STOP TAKING ALL MY CONDENSED MILK!!



#19

MOURNING A TRUE FRIEND

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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DO

DO

PAN

PA

DON
(BLAM)

PAN
(BANG)

GA

GA (DSH)

GYU (SWERVE)

GA

GA

!

...HIS BULLETS CURVE... THEY'RE HOMING BULLETS!

I ALREADY NOTICED IT BACK WHEN HE ATTACKED US IN THE WAREHOUSE, BUT...

GARAN (CLATTER)

カラン..

ZO (WRIGGLE)

YOU THOUGHT THEY'D GIVE YOU THE EDGE OVER ME...?

.....YOU GOT THESE DISGUSTING BULLETS FROM THE FOLKS AT AMENOTORI...

ZOZO

DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT, YOU FUCKIN' CORPSE!?

KA-BAM!

KRAK

KRAK

GA
GA GA
GA
(BLAM)
GA
GA
GIN
(SCREECH)
PAAN
PAAN
(BANG)
PAN
(PLINK)

YOU'RE RECRUITING ME?

FOR MONSTER HUNTING?

ワレー射撃場
GUN CLUB

YOU THE ONE-ARMED WONDER KID?

SIGN: CLAY SHOOTING RANGE

WE'RE AN ARMED EXTRALEGAL GROUP THAT'S TRYING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS THOSE SPIDERS LEAVE IN THEIR WAKE...

JACKALOPE

YEAH.

THERE'S MONSTERS CAUSING ALL KINDS OF MAYHEM, LIKE THE ACCIDENT THAT TOOK YOUR ARM.

GACHIN (CLICK)

NONE OF IT REALLY MATTERS TO ME.

WELL.

SHUBO (FZSH)

SURE, WHATEVER. I'LL JOIN.

THAT WAS QUICK!!

OH! YOU READ BRAILLE? THAT'S PRETTY RARE, YOU KNOW?

...GAGARA-KUN, YOUR...

NO ⠝⠕

WHERE... ⠺⠓⠑⠗⠑

...SIGHT TOO...!?

YEAH.

EVENTUALLY, IF I DON'T GET IT TREATED.

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE IT REALLY BUGS ME...NOT THAT MUCH.

THERE'S NOTHING I PARTICULARLY WANNA SEE, YOU KNOW?

GARAN (CLATTER)

.....OH YEAH. HEY...

KACHI (CLICK)

...YOU STILL SMOKING THOSE SHITTY COFFEE-FLAVORED THINGS?

I STOPPED.

MY ZIPPO'S MISSING, YOU KNOW?

HE WAS BURIED AT SEA IN ONE OF THIS PIER'S RUSTY DRUM CANS, JUST LIKE A PROPER SLUM KID.

THIS IS A MEMENTO OF A GUY WHO USED TO BE MY FRIEND.

...

KIN (SNAP)

I KILLED HIM.

PIKI

PIKI (CRICK)

...WHY, GAGARA...?

COME ON...I'M BEGGING YOU, YOU KNOW!?

GAN (WHAM)

YOU KNEW THIS COULD HAPPEN!

DO IT BEFORE I BECOME ONE OF THOSE STUPID ANIMAL HEADS.

GA (GRAB)

!

SHUT UP!

JUST HURRY UP ALREADY... AKUTA...!

DAMN!

WHY...WHY'D YOU GET AN EYE TRANSPLANT NOW, YOU DUMBASS!?

WHAT IS IT YOU WANNA SEE NOW...!?

FINE.

I'LL TAKE YOU OUT.

PIKI (CRACK)

WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?

BLAM!!

—I KNOW. AND AFTER THAT...

...HE HAD THE BAD LUCK TO GET PICKED UP BY AMENOTORI'S CORPSE GATHERERS.

ZA (THUD)

HE DID EVERYTHING HE COULD TO SURVIVE, YOU KNOW?

ALL SO HE COULD FULFILL HIS DESIRE TO FIGHT YOU TO THE DEATH.

ARTYPE:SPIDER (HYBRID-WOLF MODEL)

THE SNIPER WOLF GOD

SO I CAME TO KILL YOU AGAIN!

I KNOW THAT!

DO

DON (BLAM)

DO

PAPAN (BANG)

GYURU (WHOOSH)

BO (FWAP)

.....!

SHIT!

HOW DO THEY FIND ME? THEY HEAT-SEEKING?

ZA (THUD)

!

GAGAN (WHAM)

GA

DEAD END!

BOSO (MUTTER)

TCH!

RELEASE GEARS ONE-FIFTY PERCENT.

CLick...

KA

KA

YOU'RE A RAT IN A CAGE, YOU KNOW?

TOO EASY!

GAGON (CLUNK)

!?

GYUO (WHOOSH)

BO (THMP)

HE ESCAPED INTO THE CONTAINER?

...NO, THE BULLET HIT A BODY. I HEARD IT...!

SHUU (FSHHH)

GARI (GRIND)

DOGUN (BADUM)

HA...!

PTOO!

KARAN (CLATTER)

AKUTAAA ...

...YOU'VE ALWAYS...

...CRUSHED ME RIGHT TO MY CORE, YOU KNOW...

SMOKIN' SHIT!!

SCORE BOARD

SCORE BOARD

AHH, IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE A NEW GUY WHO CAN ACTUALLY SHOOOOT.

IT'S SO MESSY...

WELL, YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE SKILLS, AKUTA.

YOU'VE GOT HIGH-CALIBER BULLETS, BUT YOU'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE. YOU NEED PRACTICE.

SHUT UP! IT'S 'COS MY GEARS ARE SO HEAVY!!

AAHHOOO

What the Hell!?

HOW'M I LOSING OUT TO SOME GUY WHO JUST GOT HIS GEARS!?

YAWN...

LISTEN TO THE LITTLE BULLDOG...

ALL THE EXCUSES HE'S BARKING FOR LOSING OUT ARE ANNOYING. I'M GONNA GO GET SOME SLEEP, YOU KNOW.

SHUT UP, YOU PERV!!

BAN (SLAM)

HFF!

THEN LET'S MOD YOU WITH A STABILIZER, A LASER SCOPE, AND SOMETHING THAT LINKS TO YOUR PLEASURE CENTER SO YOU CLIMAX WHEN YOU FIRE! YOUR REWARD REINFORCEMENT WILL HELP IMPROVE YOUR SHOOTING!

HFF!

HFF!

DOGOO (CRASH)

BOGO (SMASH)

BAKI (SNAP)

AH! YOU'RE GOING TO WASTE ALL MY MEDICAL-GRADE STEAM AGAIN.

GIRI (GRIND)

GIRI

I'M SAYING NOT TO GET IN MY WAY, YOU KNOW? YOU IMPOTENT MEGAPHONE!

I CAN'T TAKE THIS!

HUUUUH!?

WAH!?

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE JUST PLAYING THE GUNNER CHARACTER, YOU FAKER!!

I WANNA QUIT.

HEY, OLD MAN!

YOU CAN CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT I'M SERIOUS, YOU KNOW?

THEY SMELL LIKE COFFEE.

.....

THOSE ARE SOME NICE CIGARETTES.

I'VE REALIZED I HAD THINGS SUPER EASY BEFORE BECAUSE OF MY ARM AND MY EYES.

IT WAS QUIET.

AND DARK.

AND FREE.

HERE AT JACKALOPE, EVERYTHING FEELS LIKE IT'S GONNA BREAK.

EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING.

BWA HA!

I JUST CAN'T WITH HIM! HE'S SO ANNOYING!!!

AND AKUTA!!

...CARE ABOUT HIM?

SO YOU DO...

WHAT'RE YOU SMILING FOR, OLD MAN?

?

GARA (CLATTER)

!

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THE TARGET IS...

HUH? ARE YOU DUMB, GAGARA?

NO, A DECOY?

A DISTRAC-TION...?

...YOU JUST SHOOT EVERYTHING!

AK

...

DAMN IT!

...I...

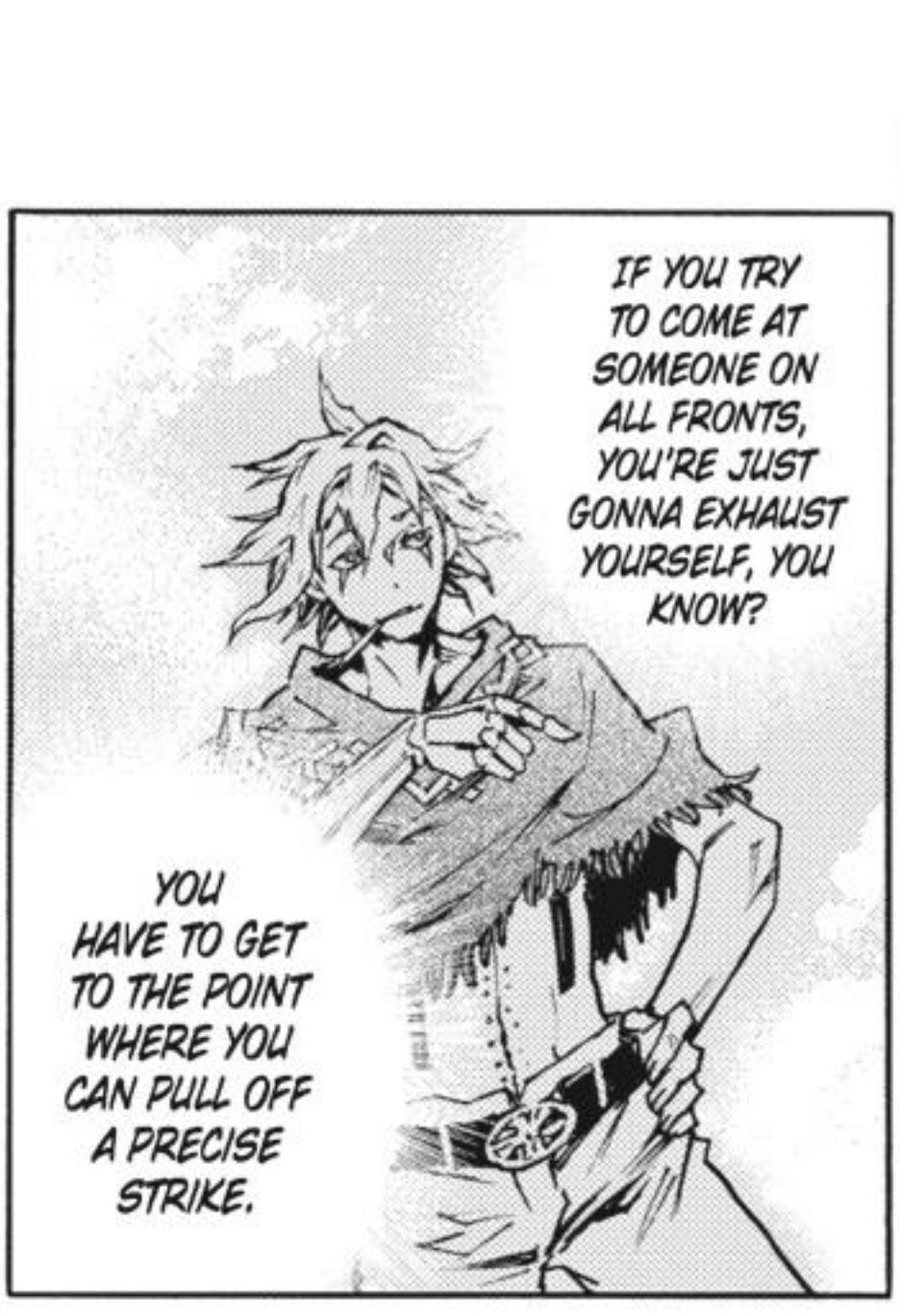
I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING I WANTED OR ANYTHING TO THINK ABOUT.

...DIDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO BE.

I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO LOOK AT EITHER.

I WAS GOOD WITH JUST NOWHERE.







KAKA
(THWACK)

JUST MAKE THEM RICOCHET AND TAKE EVERYONE OUT, YOU KNOW?

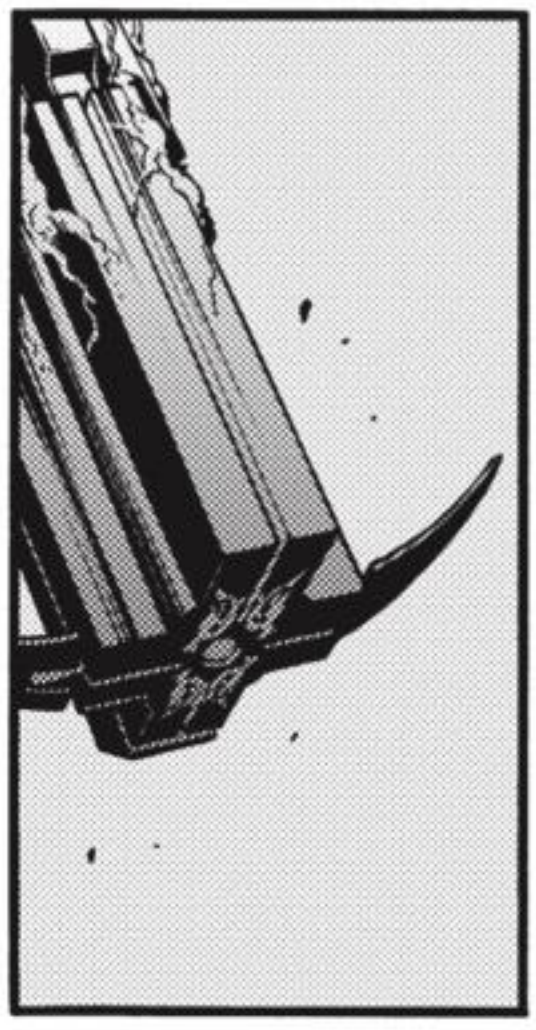
.....!

HA...!!

AND THE SHIKAGURA WERE LOOSE, UNFOCUSED, AND LAID-BACK.

THE JACKALOPES SURPRISINGLY WEREN'T SO BAD.

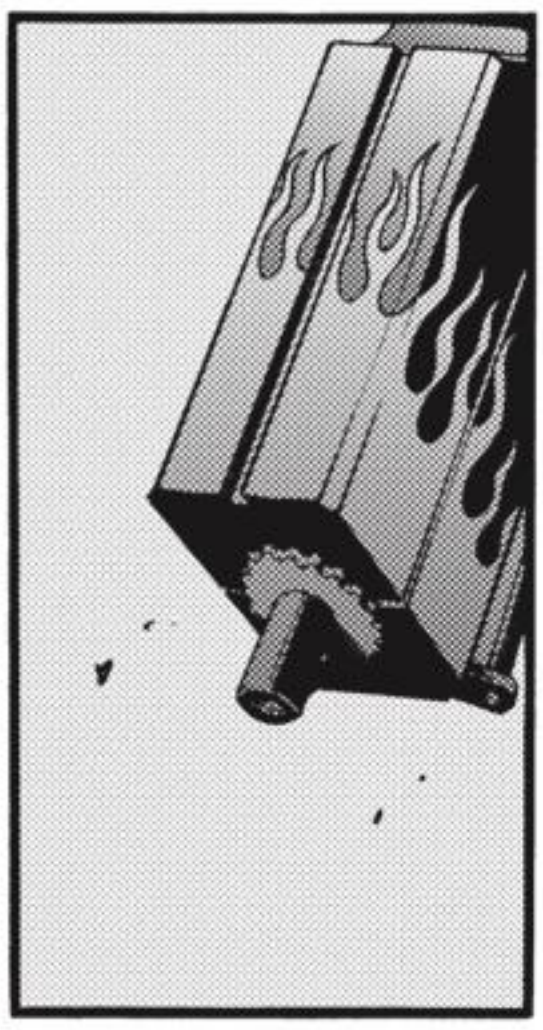
THEY WERE BOTH GOOD FAMILIES.



NO MATTER HOW YOU HATE.

NO MATTER HOW YOU YEARN.

BUT NO MATTER HOW CLOSE YOU GET.



—THERE ARE JUST SOME COGS

THAT WILL NEVER FIT TOGETHER.

YOUKOU ...?

...IT WAS ALL OVER.

...ONCE I REALIZED THAT...

IT'S ALL OVER.

DON (WHUMP)

!?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOUKOU!?

WH...

ZA (THUD)

HEE...

YOUR FAMILY... THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR... WHY?

...THAT'S YOUR SISTER, ISN'T IT?

HUH? WHAT, KOTO-HARU?

DOSA (THUMP)

IF HER BIG BROTHER DOESN'T KILL HER, THAT'D JUST BE SAD.

WHY...? 'COS SHE'S MY PRECIOUS LITTLE SISTER.

HUK...

"TAKE CARE OF FAMILY" IS ONE OF THE FAMILY RULES, AFTER ALL.

SHE BECAME A SPIDER...AND SHIKAGURA...

SINCE SHE DID BAD, I HAFTA CLEAN UP AFTER HER.

...BUT SHE CAME BACK TO LIFE FOR ME. SO THIS TIME I CAN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND KILL HER MYSELF.

A TOTAL STRANGER KILLED HER THE FIRST TIME, SO I COULDN'T DO IT...

YOU DON'T LET BAD MONSTERS LIVE.

...ISN'T THAT ONLY "NORMAL"?

FOR "HUMANS"...

KOFF!

KOFF!

...AH.

HA
HA.

ONII-CHAN...
YOU...

...REALLY ARE WEIRD.

You all right, Kotoharu?

ZA ZA

Kotoharu?

The backup's here.

ZA

ZA (CRACKLE)

—Hey, did you find Youkou?

GURA (SWAY)

DOKIN (CRASH)

MISHI (CREAK)

GI (CREAK)

BU (SNAP)

FALL

GA
GAN
GA
GA (BLAM)
GA
GA
GA
GA
GAN
GA

KPAK!

...I CAN'T HIT YOU IF YOU HIDE BEHIND A CAR, AKUTA?

DO YOU REALLY THINK...

BISHA (SPLASH)

Hitotoo...

DOPOPO (POUR)

I DON'T.

GA (THNK)

GIN (PLINK)

BO (FWOOSH)

...BUT I REALLY DON'T NEED HEAT-SEEKING BULLETS IN ONE-ON-ONE FIGHTS.

GOO (FWOOM)

BA R- Q! B-

GOOOO (ROOOAR)

HM? WHERE'S YOUR HAT?

WHO CARES ABOUT THE HAT!? THAT BARBECUE BASTARD ATE IT!

FURAA (DIZZY)

...SHIT, WAS I SLEEPING?

YOU LOST A TON OF BLOOD!

BLACK BEER

HEY, STAND UP, AKUTA!!

K.O.F.F.!

HEY!

.....

...BUT THAT IS SOMETHING TO CARE ABOUT, DUMBASS.

DA— (DASH)

HUH?

QUU!

BA-B-

WHY!?

WHAT'RE YOU GOING BACK IN THERE FOR!?

SHIBACCHI'S ON HIS WAY AS BACKUP!

GAN (WHAM)

FUCK...

...THAT...

...NOISE!

FLASH

GUCHA BECHA

.....

HOT!

BUCHI (RIP)

GOCHA (SQUELCH)

YOU SAVED US. THANK...

...I... HAAH...

...REALLY DON'T GET YOU.

GUCHA

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

THE SPIDER'S HEARTBEAT STOPPED?

I CAN'T SEE IT.

"THERE'S NOTHING I PARTICULARLY WANNA SEE, YOU KNOW?"

ZURU (DRAG)

STUPID.

DOGUN (BADUM)

DON'T YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME. I DON'T HAVE TO RELY ON THAT OLD-MAN HOST...

...TO GET SOMETHING THAT MY BUDDY DROPPED.

POSU (PLOP)

...WOULD IT BE ALL RED?

WOULD IT BE SUPER BRIGHT?

WOULD IT BE GLINTING AND SHINING ALL OVER THE PLACE?

WOULD IT HAVE EVERYTHING I DON'T HAVE...

DOKUN (BADUM)

YOU'RE THE IDIOT, YOU KNOW...

IT'S BURNT AND SMELLS LIKE BARF AND BLOOD.

I REALLY DON'T NEED IT.

—IF I COULD SEE...

...AND BE ENOUGH TO BREAK THIS YEARNING NOWHERE MAN TO PIECES?

GOOOO (FWOOSH).

OOO (FWOOSH)

IF I COULD SEE, IT WOULD RUIN MY EYES.

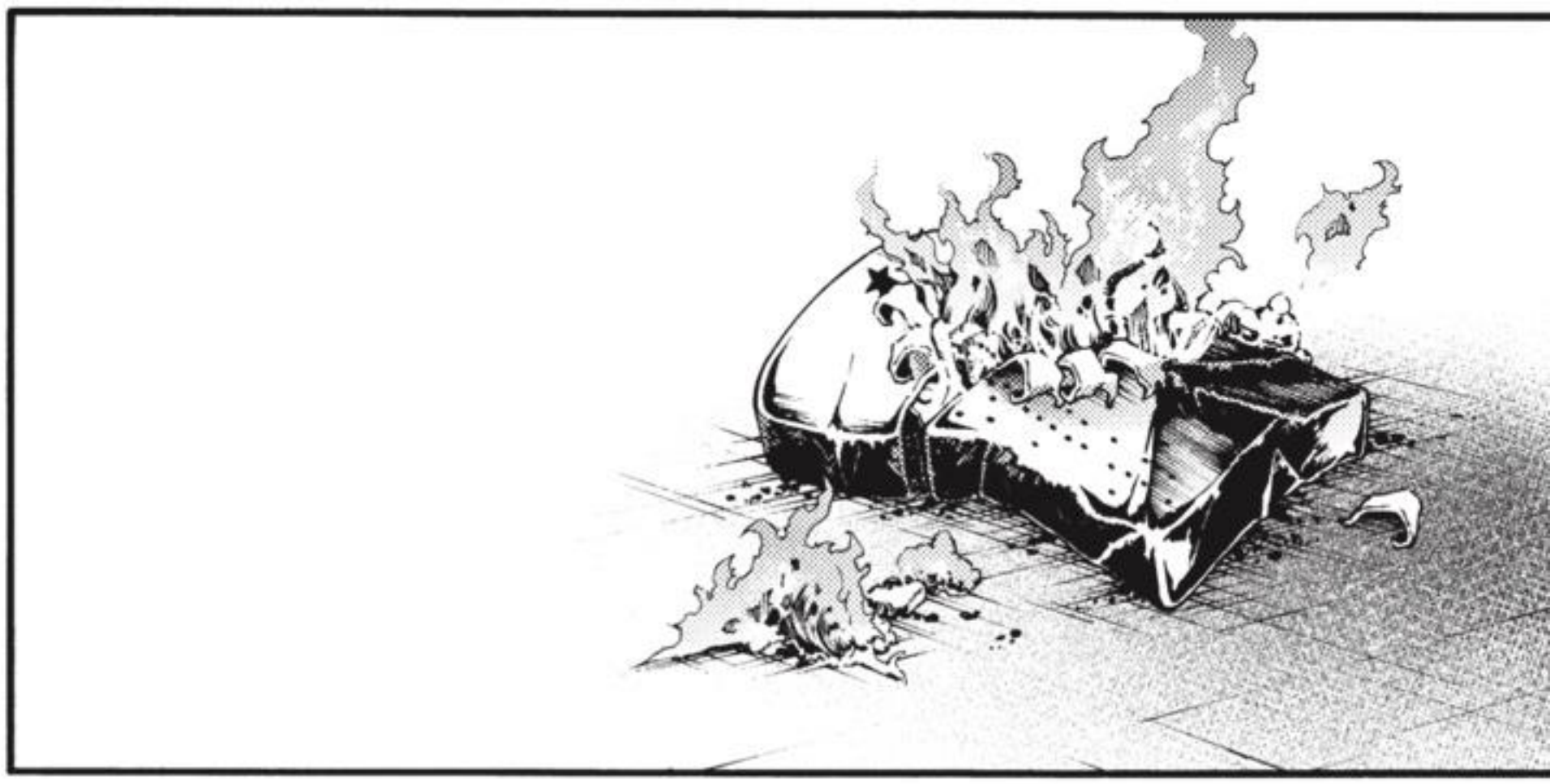
THAT'S...

...THE SUN I WANTED TO SEE.

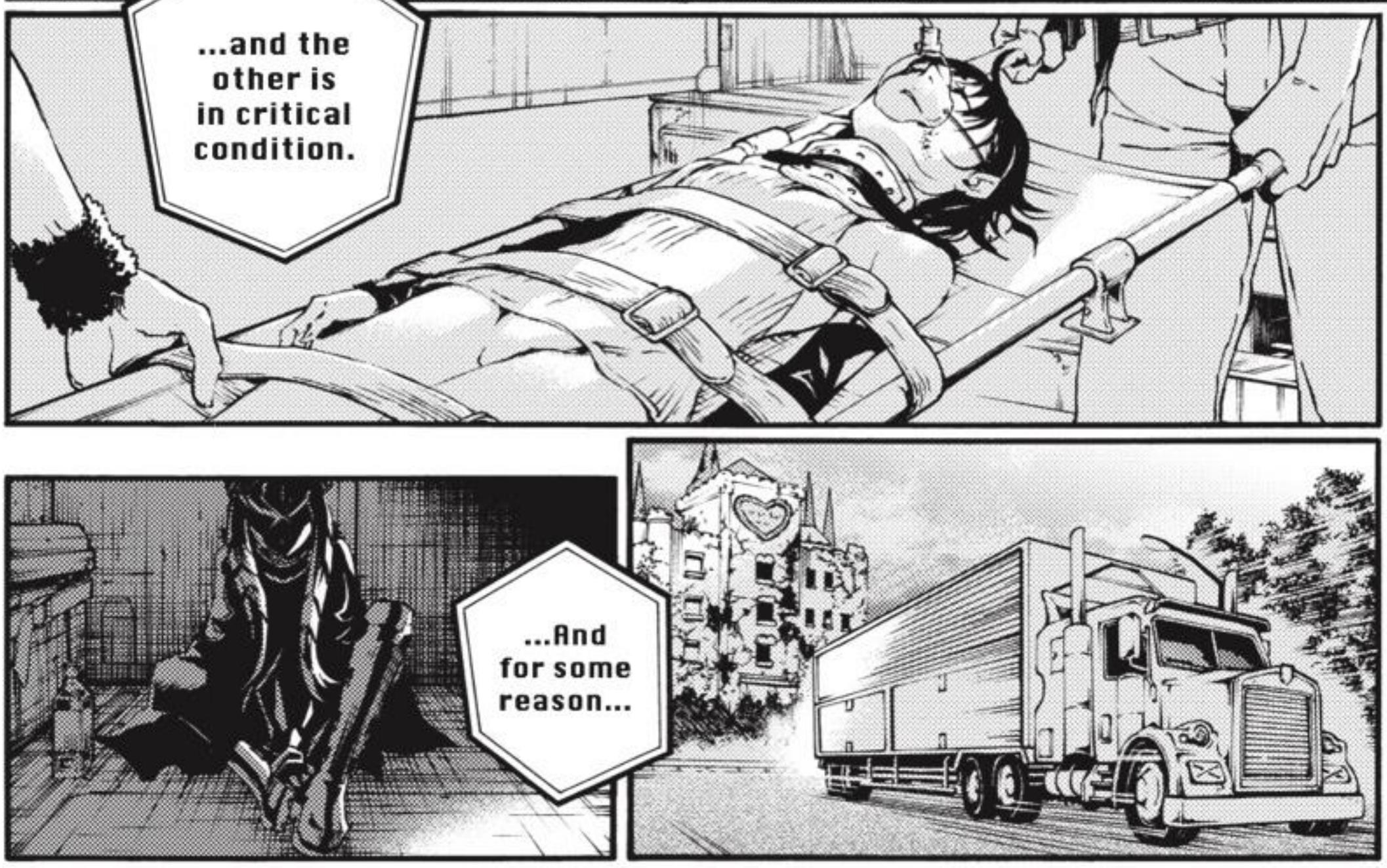
AAAA



GOTON (THUD)




Two Shikagura acquired.
One is already dead...
...and the other is in critical condition.


...And for some reason...

...Captain Kukuri from the Jackalope northern base was on-site.

—End report. Send to the main base immediately.

BRRRR...

...HEY, YOU OKAY?

YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD, KOTO-HARU.

...NO.

HE'S...

...GONE OFF THE RAILS IN JUST THE RIGHT WAY.

I'M FINE.

I...WAS JUST THINKING...

...ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO GEARS AFTER THEY BREAK.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

#20

ENGRAVED ON THE HEART



NO CASUALTIES ON OUR SIDE.

AHH...

...BUT...

UMM.

YES. WE'VE HAD AN UPDATE.

OUR REVENGE-AND-RESCUE PLAN WAS A SUCCESS!

SO AKUTA TOOK CARE OF THE FINAL SHIKAGURA?

BYU (FWOOSH)

BORO (RAGGED)

SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING.

EEK!

SUPAAN (FWAP)

GOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)

YOU'VE BEEN VERY BAD.

...WELCOME BACK.

.....

LEAVING IT AT THAT WAS JUST SO...YOU KNOW...

BUT WE NEEDED TO PAY THEM BACK...

I TOLD YOU NOT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SHIKAGURA ANYMORE.

LADY EMMA...!!

ZOKU (SHUDDER)

...BEING KILLED AND KILLING IN RETURN IS SIMPLY FOOLISH.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE OILED THE GEARS WITH BLOOD...

...WHO AMONG YOU HAS COME BACK SPIRITED AND SMILING?

.....

THAT'S ALL SETTLED...

.....BUT I'M JUST EMPTY.

I THOUGHT I WOULD FEEL BETTER NOW...

DOKA (THUNK)

YEAH... WELL...

WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOUR LEGS LOOK LIKE JENGA TOWERS.

AND YOU'RE RIDDLED WITH BULLET HOLES.

...YOU SMELL LIKE SMOKE.

SORT OF.

...IS IT OVER?

...ALL THE TANKS IN MY BODY ARE COMPLETELY EMPTY.

...IT'S KINDA LIKE...

THERE!

HMPH!

GARA

GARA (CLATTER) GARA

WHAT!?

HUH?

WHA!?

DON (BOOM)

YOU NEVER PUT IN YOUR ORDER, SO I BROUGHT IT OVER FOR ALL YOU MONSTERS!

HEY!

FORTY KILOS OF PREMIUM MEAT, TWENTY CANS OF MIXED BEANS...

...THIRTY LOAVES OF BREAD, NINETY SWEET BUGS...

...FIFTY CHICKEN GEORGES, AND ASSORTED GREENS.

DOBAN (THUD)

!

WHEN YOU DIE, YOU EVENTUALLY GO BACK TO BEING FOOD AGAIN, WHETHER AS DIRT AND WATER OR FOOD FOR THE ANIMALS. AND THEN I SELL YOU.

HE DIED, DIDN'T HE?

...THAT STRONG-ARMED CUTIE...

...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN EAT YOU LOT.

YOU'RE ALIVE.

.....UM, LADY EMMA.

ZA (STEP)

VERY MONSTROUS. IT'S PERFECT.

.....

SO WE GOTTA EAT THE DEAD TO LIVE?

.....

YEAH.

GYU (CLENCH)

WHETHER IT'S STARING DOWN OURSELVES IN A BATHROOM MIRROR OR STARING DOWN THE LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD HIMSELF...

...WE STILL WANT TO LIVE LIKE THAT'S ALL JUST A PART OF LIFE.

WE'RE NOT KIDS.

WE'RE NOT GEARS EITHER.

WE'RE HUMAN BEINGS.

WE MAY BE SOAKED IN BLOOD, BUT WE STILL WANT TO DRAW A LINE SOMEWHERE.

.....

HMM.

VIII (WHIRR)

IF YOU HAVE FINISHED "SETTLING THINGS," AS YOU SAY...

...YOU NEED TO PROCEED WITH YOUR MISSION AT ONCE.

...AND DO BOTH WHAT IS JUST AS A HUMAN AND WHAT ONE MUST AS A DEMON.

ALL RIGHT.

WELL THEN, ENJOY YOUR EATS, MONSTERS.

GARA (CLATTER)

GARA

Invoice
Potatoes
¥. 71.200-
Sauce (white)
¥. 83.900-
Night engine oil
¥. 91.300-
Mixed Meat (30
¥. 23/.270-
HM?
HUH.
I CAN'T HELP IT. I CAN ONLY TASTE SWEET.
RIPPING PEOPLE OFF WHEN I HAVE THE CHANCE IS HOW I ROLL!
HEE HEE HEE!
GARA (CLATTER)
GARA
GARA
SO MUCH!
WAIT A MINUTE, YOU OLD HAG!

ZAAAA (FSSHH)

AR

AR

AR

AR

...THEY'RE PRETTY MUCH ALL GONE.

Pi.

.....

THOSE IDIOTS.

CONNECTING・・・DJ-256

Whaaa? You seriously thought the Shikagura were going to succeed?

No way! That's so adorable!

Quiet. You'll rile the president.

...You shouldn't butt in on work conversations.

You're so much cuter than your chest would suggest!

LIVE

ON LIVE

...YES...

GI (TENSE)

Continue your work on developing unique Spiders other than just the AR types.

SOUND OFF

SOUND OFF

They were nothing but byproducts of our *final* product, were they not?

SOUND OFF

I do not mind the loss of the Shikagura, Chief Kurama.

After all, Amenotori exists to research the Magatama.

I am dealing with that.

Oh, that is fine.

YES... THEN...

...ABOUT THE RATE OF APPEARANCE OF SPIDERS IN THE COUNTRY TO THE NORTH...?

AMENOTORI

I'M... LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT...

VERY MUCH SO. <очень.>

PI (BEEP)

PI

Huuum...

—HE DIDN'T KILL THIS SHIKAGURA?

HFF!

HFF!

SUCH SUPERB JUDGMENT!

APPARENTLY, KOTOHARU STOPPED HIM RIGHT BEFORE HE COULD KILL HER.

...!

WE BROUGHT HER IN TEMPORARILY AS A PRISONER OF WAR...

...BUT IT SEEMS SHE'S YOUKOU'S SISTER.

...SO DON'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD...

WHAT'S THAT SHINING PART FOR?

HEY!

ZOKUN (SHIVER)

...WITH *THAT* YOUKOU-KUN...HUH?

...BEFORE THIS, SHE USED TO LIVE...

—JUST TELL ME ALREADY!

WHY DOES KILLING MIRAI GET ME PUNISHED?

YOU SAID YOU'D EXPLAIN IT LATER.

...COME ON, KOTOHARU!

...

MUSHA (MUNCH)

MUSHA

HUH?

?

...NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...

...COMPARED TO THE SHIKAGURA WE ENCOUNTERED OR EVEN YOUR SISTER...

THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW...

...IS WHY YOU NEED *PUNISHMENT*...

...YOU ARE FAR MORE—

BEEP BEEP

Attention, warriors of Clock Rock!

!?

After meeting with Lady Emma of the main base...

I am Gin Kukuri, captain of the Jackalopes' northern base!

...I have officially decided to claim Youkou Kakujou, Hartwig Kotone, and two other individuals!

!!?!

THE NORTHERN BASE...!?

COME MARCH WITH ME TO THE NORTHERN-MOST REACHES AND THE GLORIOUS BATTLEFIELD...

...TO OUR FORTRESS, BOLD BOLT!!

BOOM

WHO'S THAT?

WAIT, "HARTWIG"...?

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD,
THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

#21

ФОТО НА ПОК

Ёто чего здесь — а-а?!

Опять здесь — а-а...

Наконец живая душа!

N

SPIDERS 8∞8

NORTHERN BASE

BOLD BOLT

OUR TEAM SEES MORE FIGHTING THAN ANY OTHER IN THE JACKALOPES!

YU-337
OGON' REGION
Снежный город

DO

DO (RUMBLE)

DO

SPIDERS 8∞8

THE JACKALOPE NORTHERN BASE IS UP ON THE NORTHERN BORDER. IT'S THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST BOTH SPIDERS INVADING FROM THE NORTH AND SPIDERS ADVANCING FROM WITHIN OUR OWN COUNTRY!!

#21
BLIZZARD

NORTH REGION 487
CONTAMINATED ZONE

BUT...THE SPIDERS HAVE STARTED APPEARING MUCH MORE OFTEN, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF INCREASED FIGHTING TO THE NORTH.

THUS, I CAME TO THE MAIN BASE AT CLOCK ROCK TO BORROW SOME MORE FIGHTERS.

FEEL HONORED THAT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU!

WARRIORS OF THE CLOCK TOWER! DEMON PROTECTORS!

GOTO (RATTLE)

GOTO

.....

GOTO

YOU'RE REALLY NOT GETTING INTO IT, WARRIORS!

GOTO

WHOA.

NO WONDER IT'S SO COLD.

GACHI (STIFF)

GACHI

GRR...

...It's too cold!! My gears are all frozen solid!!

YOU MUST BE HONORED TO HAVE YOUR HEART WARMED BY MY WORDS, THEN.

Your long-winded explanation is the only thing with any heat around here!

BURU (SHIVER) BURU

ARE YOU USED TO THIS, KOTOHARU?

YOU MADE A TRIP UP HERE ONCE BEFORE, RIGHT?

...

...WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT COLD, THEN GOOD FOR YOU.

SNIFFLE...

SNIFF!

HUH?

YOU GUYS ARE COLD?

THEY MADE A GOOD SOUVENIR FOR AKUTA-NII.

THE ONLY SAVING GRACE IS THAT THEY SELL HOT SPRINGS BUNS MADE WITH SUPER-SWEET GUINNESS IN THE TOWN NEARBY.

THAT PLACE IS GONE NOW.

...I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS...

...BUT IS THIS AREA REALLY THAT BAD...?

.....

I NEVER WANTED TO COME BACK.

45.33816
146.44722.

...ALL RIGHT.

WHAT PUNISHMENT...

RRR

WHAT?

PI (BEEP)

KIKI (SCREECH)

WE'VE ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION, MEN!

?

'S COLD...

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WOODS.

I

OUR HOME IS OVER ON THAT CAPE.

NAH.

I DON'T REMEMBER BOLD BOLT BEING HERE...

GASASA (RUSTLE)

Then why are we here...?

CAPTAIN KUKURI!

GEEZ!

HEE HEE!

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR WAS SOOOOOO FURIOUS!

YOU WENT OFF TO THE MAIN BASE WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE!

WELCOME BACK!

They seem rather... unique...

"SOOOOOO"?

THESE GUYS MUST BE FROM BOLD BOLT...

...SO. HOW MANY ARE WE LOOKING AT?

I DUNNO.

GUESSING ABOUT TEN.

PON (PAT) ナデナデ

HEH HEH!

OHH? IT'S LITTLE HARU!

LEMME BORROW SOME STUUUFF AGAIN!

STOP!

ZAWA (HWOOO)

GASA (RUSTLE)

TEN WHAT...?

...?

ZAWAWA

JAKIN (KACHING)

SERIOUSLY? COME ON!!

THAT MANY SPIDERS...!?

ALL RIGHT. TODAY'S RULES ARE FIVE POINTS EACH.

THIS SHOULD BE PERFECT FOR BREAKING IN OUR MAIN-BASE RECRUITS!

BASA (RUSTLE)

KOOL

AND BIG SPIDERS OVER TWO METERS ARE WORTH FIFTEEN POINTS!

"WE ARE LIKE SNOWFLAKES, EACH WITH A DIFFERENT FORM, BUT OUR SPIRITS DO NOT MELT, AND OUR CONVICTION DOES NOT WAVER!

Yes, Sir!♥

"RED SNOW SPREADS AROUND US!

"WE ARE BOLD BOLT! WE WILL DRILL THROUGH BOTH THE LAND AND OUR ENEMIES!"

THE HUNT IS ON!!

KUN (SNIFF)

DON (THWACK)

PUCHI (SQUISH)

I can't even count that high!

KYA!

IT'S LIKE TEN OF THEM!

I'M GONNA KILL THIRTY POINTS' WORTH TODAY!

HYA HA

DORU (VRRRN)

DO

DORU

GOBUBU (SQUELCH)

GUCHI

GUCHI (GLRCH)

BURYU (SKLRSH)

WOW! I'LL DISMANTLE YOUR SHARE TOO, OKAY?

THERE AREN'T ANY INSTRUC-TIONS FROM COMMS...!?

.....!

IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS UP HERE...!?

BICHA (SPLAT)

DOSA (THUD)

Eeek!

"HUNTERS WITH FROZEN HEARTS."

"THE MONSTERS OF THE NORTH."

FIVE POINTS !!

"ATROCIOUS."

"A SQUAD OF CRUEL BEASTS."

TEN POINTS !!

...THE RUMORS WERE RIGHT...

HELLO, DOC? I DON'T WANT TO REPORT BACK. I WANT TO COME HOME.

HIKKU (SOB)

エッグ

SO THIS IS THE NORTHERN BASE...

5!

10!

ZAZA (RUSTLE)

AH!

AHH...

!

UNH!

GH!

JAKI (SHNNK)

CHIN (CLINK)

...OH, IT'S PEOPLE'S VOICES.

HEY, YOU TWO.

THIS AREA IS DANGER-OUS RIGHT NOW...

ZA (ZSH)

!

Eeee! Ö-ze!

Aee! Zze!?

H... HELP...

BUT HE NOT RIGHT.

BOLEZN'... DISEASE.

IS THERE BOL'NITSA? HOSPITAL? WE NEED.

INCREASED CONFLICT TO THE NORTH—

...FROM OGON' WAR.

I AND HE...

...RUN AWAY...

...!

BOLEZN'!

PIKIKI (CRACKLE)

WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS TURN INTO SPIDERS AFTER GETTING AMENOTORI TRANSPLANTS.

.....

HE'S NOT SICK...

ПОЧЕМУ?
ПОЙМАЙТЕ ДЛЯ ЭТОГО!
DO NOT... LISTEN TO MY WIFE.
I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
I SAW IT ON BATTLEFIELD.
I SAW SO MUCH...
...NO...
PIKI (CRACK)
I DO NOT WANT TO HURT MY WIFE...!
SO PLEASE... NOW!
...I SCARED.
I LOVE... ...MY WIFE.
LOVE HER VERY MUCH.
CHARI (JINGLE)

PLEASE, HELP.

...UM.

I GIVE THIS!

NO... HE...

Нет нет!!

HE... BOLEN!

SICK!

HE CAN BE CURE!

KILL ME... NOW! NOW!

.....!

CHARI (JINGLE)

"SOUL AMBER."

SO HELP!

THIS STONE VERY IMPORTANT, AMAZING IN VILLAGE.

.....

UHH... UBEGAY! UNDERSTAND?

RUN!!

GUI (TUG)

...FOR NOW, YOU NEED TO RUN!

HET!!

!?

MEGIGI (SKRCHH)

Нет...Я не оставлю мужа!

RUN...

ZA (ZKSH)

...IS FIVE POINTS?

BLUT (SKLRCH)

UM.

SO THIS...

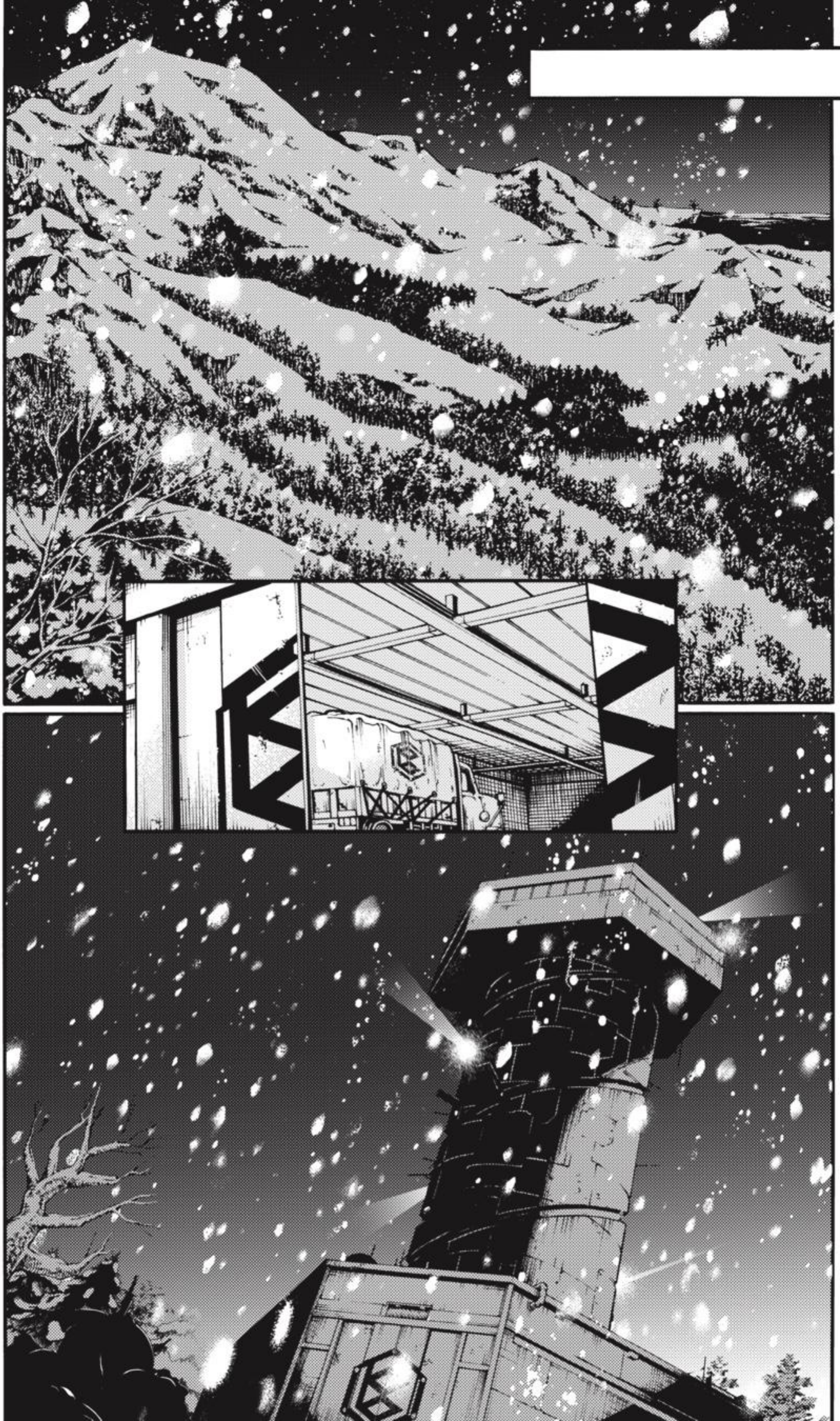
UNH!

GH!

BOCHA
(SPLAT)

CHARI
(JINGLE)

Демон...



PACHI (CRACKLE)

パチ

PACHI

パチ

TODAY'S GAMES ARE OVER, SO NOW...

...LET'S GIVE A BIG WELCOME TO THE WARRIORS FROM THE MAIN BASE WHO CAME TO HELP US!

WE TOOK DOWN A WHOLE THREE!!

HEH HEH!

BUT YOU TWO COME AS A SET.

YEAAAH!

AHH!

THERE WEREN'T ALL THAT MANY TODAY.

CAPTAIN KUKURI GOT THE MOST POINTS AGAIN?

OH, JUST THE REDHEAD WITH ONE.

DID THE CLOCK ROCK BUNCH DO THEIR FAIR SHARE?

LIFE UP HERE'S PROBABLY TOO ROUGH FOR THE SHELTERED LOT FROM THE MAIN BASE.

NAH, THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF OSLY <DUMBASSES>.

HEH-HEH... NO WONDER THE REST OF THEM LOOK SO GLOOMY.

SNIFF!

I WANT TO GO HOME!

GIRARI (GLARE)

...SHE HAS NO CLUE THAT HER KINDNESS IS COMPLETELY BACKFIRING ON HER...

THE ONLY ONE WHO'S ACTUALLY TRYING TO WELCOME THEM IS THE CAPTAIN.

CONGRATS ON YOUR GETTING ZERO POINTS.

OHHH, BY THE WAY!

—HEY, HARU-CHAN, THE OH-SO-SERIOUS.

.....

GI (GRIND)

THAT WOMAN YOU BROUGHT BACK IS ALREADY BONKERS, YOU KNOW.

THOUGH RED OVER THERE'S FITTING IN A LITTLE TOO WELL.

...EVEN IF YOU DON'T FIT IN HERE, YOU STILL GOTTA TURN UP.

THIS IS OUR HOME!

YOU'RE FAMILY HERE, EVEN IF ONLY TEMPORARILY!

WELCOME TO THE NORTHERN BASE, BOLD BOLT!!

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

#22

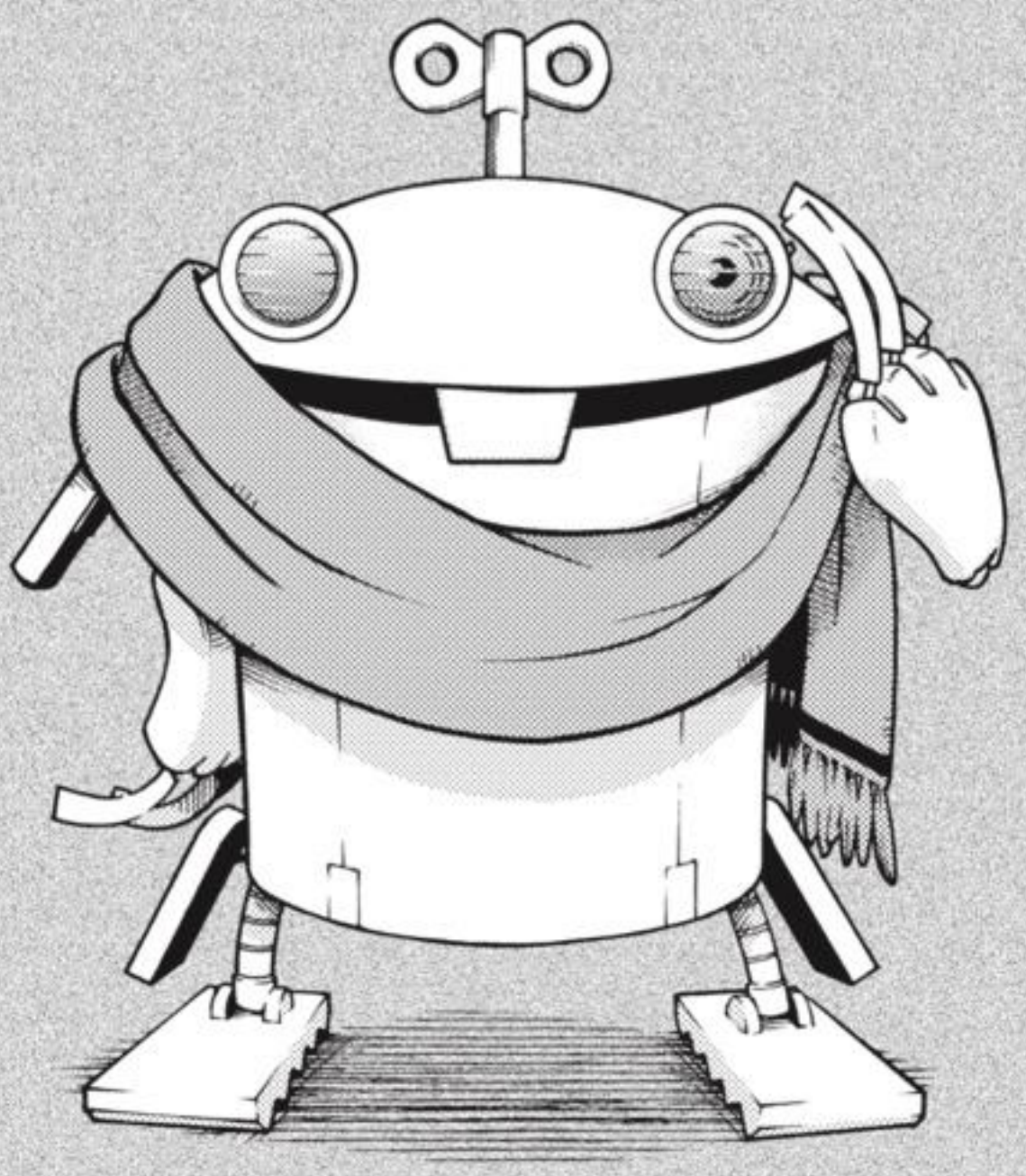
KEEN OBSERVATION

SIGNS: I ♥ EXPRESS TRAINS / SOCIAL GATHERING SPOT ARASHI

KASHA (SNAP)

KASHA

Commence recording for report to Jackalope main base: 9236.0630.



STOP SLACKING OFF, NEWBIE!

This dispatch mission up north is... harsh.

There are no shifts the way there are at the main base. Duties start at five in the morning. Cooking, cleaning, maintenance...

YOU CAN'T EVEN FIX GEARS?

Acquiring food supplies, fetching water, gathering firewood...

HUH?

NO WAY! YOU'RE TIRED!?

Such work is difficult, but what is harshest...

HMPH!

THE OUTSIDERS SHOULD JUST LEAVE!

...NEXT TIME YOU EAT ONE OF THE FISH, I'LL KILL YOU.

OKAY.

...is how the northerners act toward us, rejecting us like a wall of ice.

THEY'RE USELESS.

JUST A BUNCH OF BOTHERSOME OSLY.

They're plain scary!

DOCHA (THUD)

EEK!

Even hunting Spiders is just a part of daily life for them.

I FOUND ONE OUT THERE WHILE I WAS GETTING WATER.

So big!

...YEAH.

YOU GOING OUT HUNTING ALONE AGAIN?

BIG RERA.

ZUN (THUD)

The ones who bind all of these terrifying northerners together are...

CAPTAIN OF THE NORTHERN BASE: GIN KUKURI

NORTHERN BASE DEPUTY DIRECTOR: UDOU

HAAH...

AND YOU WASTED FIFTY KILOS OF FOOD ON A PARTY FOR THESE PEOPLE AND SPENT 120,000 YEN ON GAS. ***SUCH A WASTE.***

GUCHI GUCHI

ACTING CHASTENED WILL NOT HELP YOU. I KEEP TELLING YOU THAT OUR RESOURCES ARE LIMITED, DO I NOT, CAPTAIN KUKURI?

BUT EVEN SO, YOU HAVE BROUGHT IN SEVERAL OUTSIDERS WHO MAY NOT EVEN PROVE CAPABLE OF FIGHTING FOR US...

GUCHI

USELESS EFFORT. ***SUCH A WASTE.***

AND! YOU DID ALL OF THIS WITHOUT A SINGLE WORD TO ME, THE ONE WHO MANAGES EVERYTHING. HOW DOES YOUR BRAIN WORK, EXACTLY? YOU HAVE SOME GUTS, DESPITE YOUR SMALL FRAME.

HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF TIMES MUST I ASK YOU NOT TO FIGHT WHEN I AM NOT PRESENT? THE EFFORT IS TRULY ***SUCH A WASTE.***

AND ONCE AGAIN, WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, YOU WENT UP AGAINST THE SPIDERS AND KEPT SCORE, DID YOU NOT? WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A CERTAIN HOT-BLOODED INDIVIDUAL BREAKS THEIR GEARS IN THE COMMOTION? AND I AM TALKING ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW.

GUCHI (GRUMBLE)

GUCHI GUCHI

GUCHI

CAN YOU NOT DEVELOP A BIT MORE LOGIC IN YOUR BRAIN? ***SUCH A WASTE.***

GUCHI

AHH... AND I DO KNOW THAT YOU WERE HIDING SO YOU COULD PLAY GAMES ON YOUR DEVICE AGAIN.

IF YOU IGNORE MY INPUT AGAIN, I WILL WIPE YOUR *KIRA☆MAX* ACCOUNT CLEAN.

HUH!?

...MONEY?

AH!

KA (SHOCK)

I only return to the moon at night...

COMPLE

UDOU, ANYTHING BUT THAT!

I POURED SO MUCH MONEY INTO THAT TO FINALLY REACH THE VERY LAST EVENT FLAG!

BISHI (SNAP)

It is clear how forceful and skilled a fighter Captain Kukuri is.

SFX: GUCHI (GRUMBLE) GUCHI GUCHI GUCHI GUCHI...

.....

WHAT'S THE QUOTA THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SET FOR US?

TWENTY KILOS?

20 FISH.

KASHA (SNAP)

On the other hand, Deputy Director Udou's management skills are impressive.

But I cannot see how she is cut out for leadership.

KASHA

KYA-HA! JUST TWO MORE LOADS AND WE'RE DONE!

OH, Robo-kun came to visit!♡

GA (GRAB)

BWA-HA! WANNA TURN THIS GUY INTO FIREWOOD TOO?

!

BWA-HA! BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS RIPPING APART YOUR STUFFED ANIMALS IN YOUR SLEEP, MII.

I'LL MARK IT AS MINE! ♡

Miiya, with the right-arm Gear "Chainsaw Love."

Masuomi, with the left-arm Gear "Drill King."

I'LL GLUE IT BACK TOGETHER! ♡

HEY, OMI-KUN, I WANNA KEEP IIIIT!♡

Gaaaa- aaaah!

These two need their brains fixed more than their arms, Doc.

BUN (SWING)

THEN YOU WANNA CUT IT IN HALF AND TRY PUTTING IT BACK TOGETHER NOW?

YeaH! ♡

HUH?

RABU

Y—

You saved meee...

HNGH...

OH.

I THOUGHT IT WAS A KID OR SOMETHING, BUT IT'S JUST THE PIECE OF JUNK FROM THE MAIN BASE.

THE MAN WHO KOTOHARU WAS SO ANGRY WITH YESTERDAY...

JIMO...

Huh? Come to think of it...

?

HEH HEH.

WELL YEAH, NO WONDER. I RAN AWAY WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.

What sort of Gears do you have?

I lost track of you during the fighting yesterday.

GOSHI

GOSHI (WIPE)

Oh. He's trash.

...and he's slacking off even now.

He only pretends to fight...

WHAT'S THE POINT OF FIGHTING ANYWAY?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF DOING A BUNCH OF RANDOM JOBS?

I'LL LEAVE THAT TO ANYONE WHO'S MORE STUPIDER THAN ME.

WHATCHA GONNA GIVE ME, ROBO-CHAN?

Huh?

BURA (DANGLE)

YOU SAID I SAVED YOU, RIGHT?

IF THERE'S NOTHING IN IT FOR ME, THEN YOU'RE JUST GARBAGE.

But this Jimo is the sort of parasite that is hard to forgive.

...It appears there are some up here who do not care for battle.

...to give him a lesson on how to be a proper Jackalope!

As a represen-tative of the main base, it is my duty!..

ズ…

ZU (SHFF)





GASA (RUSTLE)

BIKU (JUMP)

A Spider?

No...

...it's not.

...is blooming even in this cold?

That tree...

CHOKON (PLOP)

チョコン

It's a fox.

Ack!

ZUN (THUD)

ZUN

PAKI (SNAP)

SO CUTE! SO BEAUTIFUL!

ホッコリ HOKKORI (RELAXING)

ZUN
(LOOM)

EEK!

RUN AWAY, LITTLE FOXY!

Please don't hunt him!

Ahhh! No, don't do it!

YAP!

WHOA.

WAS I LATE COMING TO SEE YOU, BROTHER?

GACHA CKACHAK

WE HAD CHICKEN FOR DINNER LAST NIGHT. I BROUGHT YOU SOME.

KACHA CCLACK

YAP!

PASHI (SMACK)

BUCHI (RIP)

GABU (CHOMP)

OH? YOU'RE GIVING ME HALF AGAIN?

IT'S ALWAYS SO OBVIOUS.

HMPH!

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR HALF IS A LITTLE BIT BIGGER.

HEYYY!

TA (TROT) TA

NO THANKS.

WANT SOME?

THERE'S STILL SOME MEAT LEFT!

I SAVED SOME OF MINE TOO!

GATSU

GATSU (CHOMP)

HEY, RERA.

CAPTAIN KUKURI!

キラーン KIRAAN (GLINT)

WHO KNOWS?

HE'S A PRETTY STUBBORN OLD MAN, AFTER ALL.

I'VE REALLY BEEN WORKING AT IT.

DO YOU THINK HE'S ABOUT READY TO ACCEPT ME AS PART OF HIS FAMILY TOO?

EVEN WHEN THE HUNTERS TRACKED HIM DOWN AND SHOT AT HIM...

—WHEN HE FOUND ME DYING...

...HE CARED FOR ME IN HIS OWN DEN FOR OVER SIX MONTHS.

...HE DIDN'T RUN. HE JUST STOOD THERE, PROTECTING ME.

...SO I'VE HEARD.

IT'S BECAUSE HE'S SO AMAZING, I WANT TO BE CLOSER TO HIM SO BADLY.

YOU'RE JUST TOO PUSHY, CAPTAIN KUKURI.

YOU'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO GET MY MASK OFF.

YES, BUT WHAT'S UNDER THE MASK IS A BIT MUCH FOR PEOPLE...

HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

I JUST WANT TO WASH IT FOR YOU.

?

HEH.

.....

I'M GRATEFUL TO HAVE SUCH A GOOD CAPTAIN.

...

?

YEAH!

ポン. PON (PAT)

OHH!?

GABAA (JUMP)

OH, FOX!!

LET ME PAT YOU TOO!

YIPE!

LET ME FLOOF YOUR TAIL!

GURU (WHIRL)

GURU

GURU

COMFORT MEEEE!

YAP! YIP!

UDOU GOT REALLY MAD AT ME TODAY.





Report to Jackalope main base, recording: 2274.1822.

BABY MANDARINS
紀州みかん

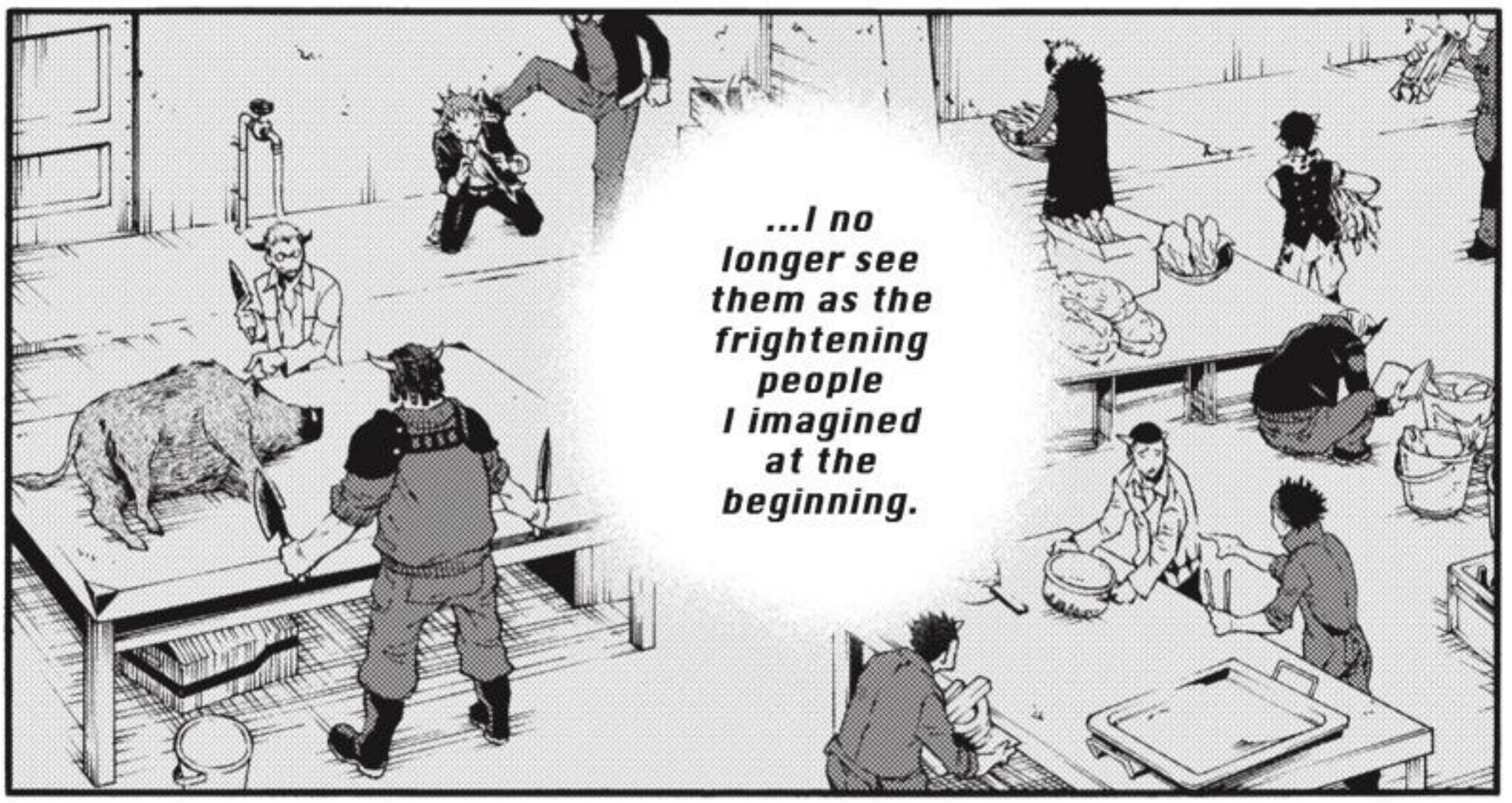
I have continued my observations since the last report.

I saw evidence of the captain's forceful nature all over the place.

But each instance gave me the strange sense that she is in fact leadership material.

The northern Jackalopes reject outsiders due to the extremely harsh environment they live in.

—However, after seeing their individual personalities brought out by their captain...





...they might at least view us as good neighbors—

...WHAT ABOUT THE GUYS FROM THE MAIN BASE?

THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED.

ZUZU (DRAG) ズズ…

ZU ズ…

GOTO (THUNK) ゴト

...HERE'S TODAY'S FOOD.

...DON'T COME OUT, NO MATTER WHAT.

GAKON CTHUNK

PYUI (TWEET)

BEKIKI (CREAK)

I'm sure the northerners' cold demeanor...

...?



...is nothing but an instinctive reaction, like that fox trying to protect his family.

.....BUT I THOUGHT...

...I HEARD SOME WEIRD...

PUSHU (JAB)

DOSA
(THUD)

...THE NIGHTS CAN GET COLD UP HERE IN THE NORTH. YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

...
VOICES
...

DO SLEEP WELL.

JIJI

(ZZZZ)

JIJI

HMM...

THERE'S... ZERO INFORMATION THAT I WANT HERE.

#23

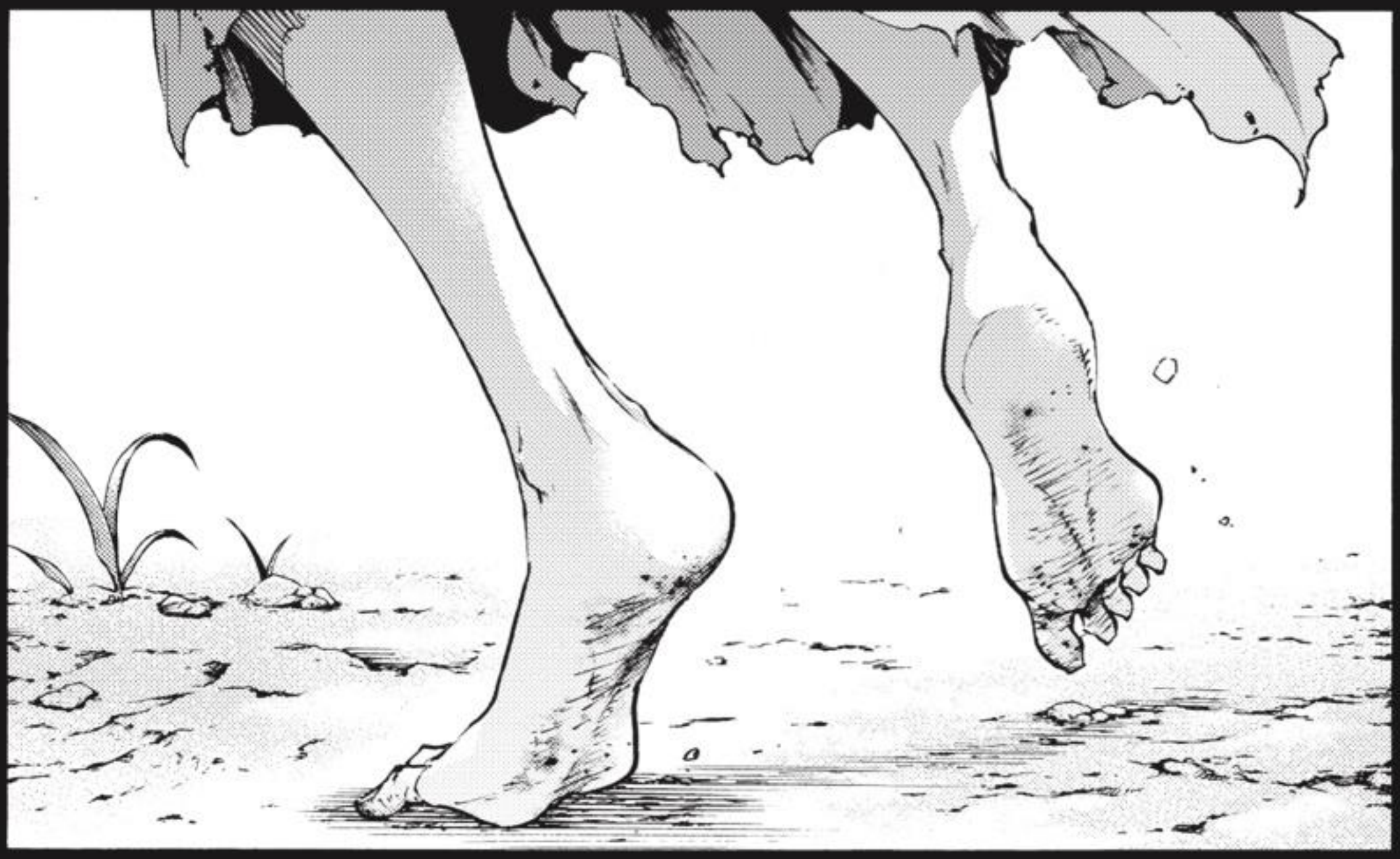
...I FEEL LIKE YOU WOULD KNOW MUCH MORE, THOUGH, SLEEPING BEAUTY.

Ding-ding
Дзинь-дзинь,
ring the bells.♪
звени, колокольный звук.

Softly, softly falls
Шш-шш, шелестя,
the crown of snow.♪
падай, снежная корона.

With the sound of the bell, we'll drown out the gunshot.
Звуком колокола звук ружья погасим.
With the color of snow, we'll hide the blood.♪
Цветом снега кровь стерём.

#23
LAMENTATION



Then there will be peace.
Тогда настанет мир.
The little birds will sing cheerfully.
Птички радость будут воспевать.
If we hide everything, we will be happy.♪
Если всё скрыть, наступит счастье.

I DON'T WANNA DEAL WITH IT IF YOU GET FROSTBITE.

♪

GUI CYANK

WHOA!

YOU'RE OUT HERE BAREFOOT AGAIN?

Even amber is blackened
Даже янтарь чёрен
like the color of rainbows.♪
как цвета́ радуги.

PACHI

PACHI (CRACKLE)

...UP NORTH, HUH?

WELL YEAH, THE ENVIRONMENT'S PRETTY NASTY, BUT IS IT SO BAD THEY NEED US TO HELP?

YESTERDAY ONE TOOK DOWN A SPIDER IN A SINGLE HIT WITHOUT EVEN TURNING AROUND.

LIKE, THEY'RE THE FEW-BUT-ELITE?

MAYBE THEY ALL TRANSFERRED OUT BECAUSE IT'S TOO ROUGH.

I'D DO THAT.

ME TOO...

HM.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THERE ARE A LOT FEWER PEOPLE HERE THAN WHEN I CAME UP BEFORE...

...THERE ARE SOME WHO IT WORKS FOR TOO, THOUGH.

WAH!

KACHOO!

CHARI (JINGLE)

ZZMooo

WHY WERE YOU SLEEPING IN THE HALLWAY?

...IT'S PROBABLY JUST A COLD.

HMM...

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.

ACHOO!

SNIFF!

AMBER?

OH, THAT'S...

WE DON'T HAVE ANY COLD MEDICINE...

...BUT I HEAR THIS AMBER REALLY WORKS.

CAPTAIN, ARE YOU SPREADING SUPER-STITIONS AGAIN?

IT'S JUST A HUNK OF PINE RESIN FROM ACROSS THE BORDER FROM A LONG TIME AGO.

BUT IT'S REALLY PRETTY. I'M SURE IT'LL DO SOMETHING!

AND IT IS TRUE THAT IT'S A MYSTERIOUS AMBER!

"MYSTERIOUS"?

YEP!

THEY SAY IT CHANGES COLORS DEPENDING ON THE "HEART" OF THE PERSON WHO HAS IT.

AND FOR SOMEONE WITH A "DARK HEART," IT TURNS DARK RED AND MUDDY.

IT STARTS OUT COLORLESS, BUT FOR SOMEONE WITH A "GOOD HEART," IT BECOMES MORE TRANSPARENT AND RAINBOW-COLORED.

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

...SO I SUPPOSE THEY NEED CHARMS LIKE THAT... FOR MORAL SUPPORT.

...THEY HAVE A LOT OF FIGHTING OVER THERE, AND THAT'S MESSED WITH THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS A LOT...

BUT STILL...

YEAH, YEAH, THAT'S JUST HEARSAY.

YU-337
OGON' REGION

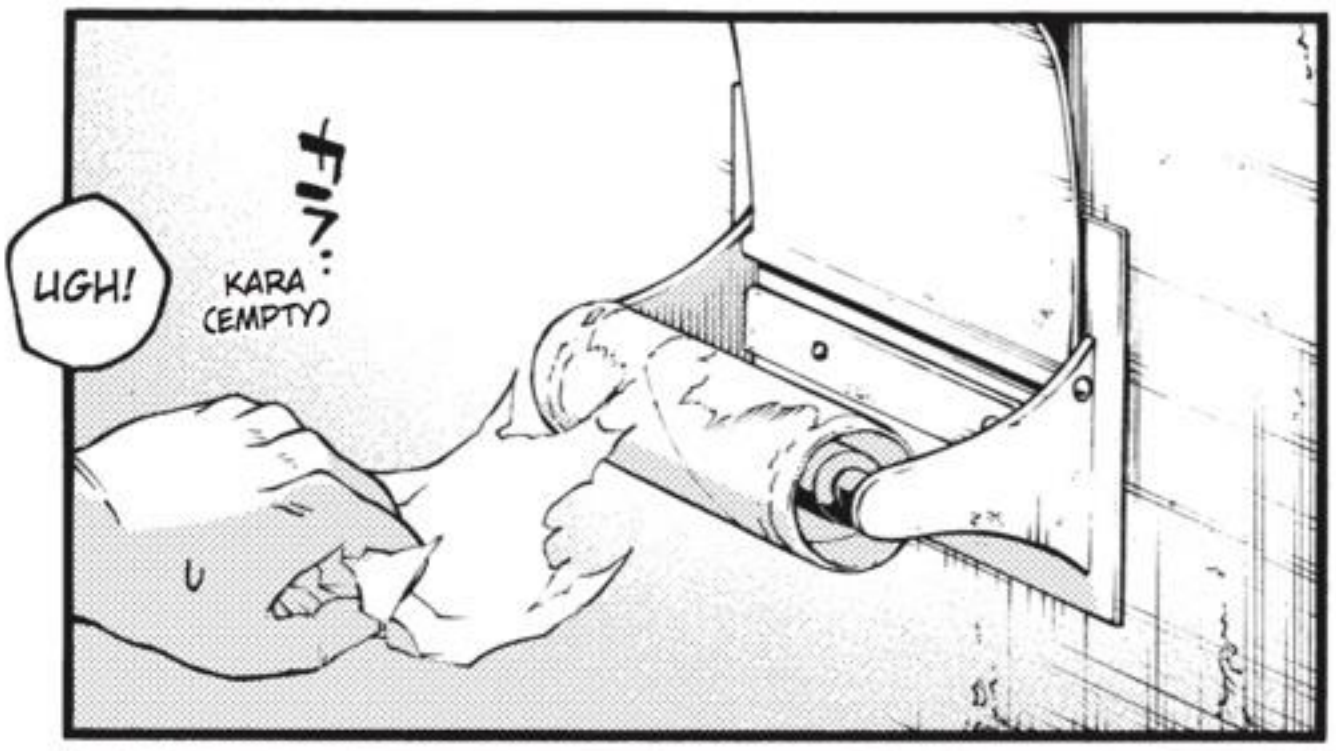
YOU MEAN THIS?

I PICKED IT UP MY FIRST DAY HERE.

WHOA.

SO DARK...

.....!

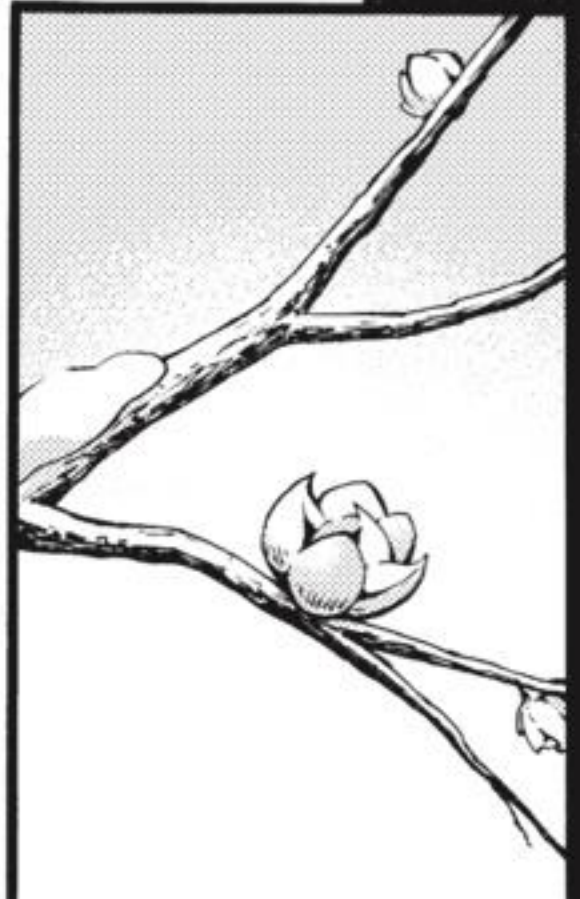

UGH!
KARA (EMPTY)
カラ:


D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, YOUKOU KAKUJOU!
JUST LIVE!
救護室
Medical room
?


HEY, SERIOUSLY? AM I SUPPOSED TO WIPE MY ASS WITH LEAVES?
THE TRADE WITH THE TOWN GOT PUSHED BACK TO TONIGHT.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL TILL THEN.


I JUST HOPE *IT* DOESN'T COME OUT...


TONIGHT ...?
...ISN'T THAT A BAD SIGN?
...PROB-ABLY.



WE HAVE A DEAL TO MAKE.

I'M GOING TO GO BUY A WHOLE BUNCH OF MILK.

DOSA (THUD)

ドサ.

GRRNH ...?

THIS IS IT FOR TODAY.

AND I'LL BAKE SOME COOKIES FOR YOU TOMORROW, BROTHER.

YAP!

Crack, crack, crackling,
freeze, the sea's waves.
Хр-хр, хрустя, замерзай, морская волна.
Rise to anger,
Donkey's mother.
Приди в ярость, мать осла.

We'll bind
благословение
the blessing with ice.
льдом скуём.
How happy it is to hear
Как радостно слышать
the little donkey's
crying.
плач ослёнка.

Then
Тогда
there will
be peace.
настанет мир.

The little
donkey can also
Ослёнка тоже можно
be taken away.
провести.

If we hide
everything,
Если всё скрыть,
it will be like
a dream.
то как грёзы.

♪Even if it is a trap,
Даже попав в ловушку,
one can dream.
можно витать в грёзах.

THAT'S IT.

PIN (FLICK)

PIKU (TWITCH)

HUH?

HEH.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM THE MONSTER WOMAN?

WE'LL GIVE YOU SIXTY PERCENT OF SELLING PRICE NEXT TIME.

YOU ALWAYS BRING SUCH BIG KILLS.

BAN (SLAM)

I JUST CAN'T STAND THAT THOSE DEMONS LOOK DOWN ON US!

SHUT UP!

...IDIOT, STOP THAT!

DORUN DORUN

DID A TREE BRANCH BREAK FROM THE WEIGHT OF THE SNOW?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM, RERA.

DO (THUD)

BAKI (CRACK)

DORUN (REVV)

THOSE DAMN BRATS FROM TOWN!

JUST WHO DO THEY THINK PROTECTS THEM FROM THE SPIDERS?

GACHA (KACHAK)

WHAT? WE'RE NOT GONNA GIVE YOU ANY MORE MO—

HUH?

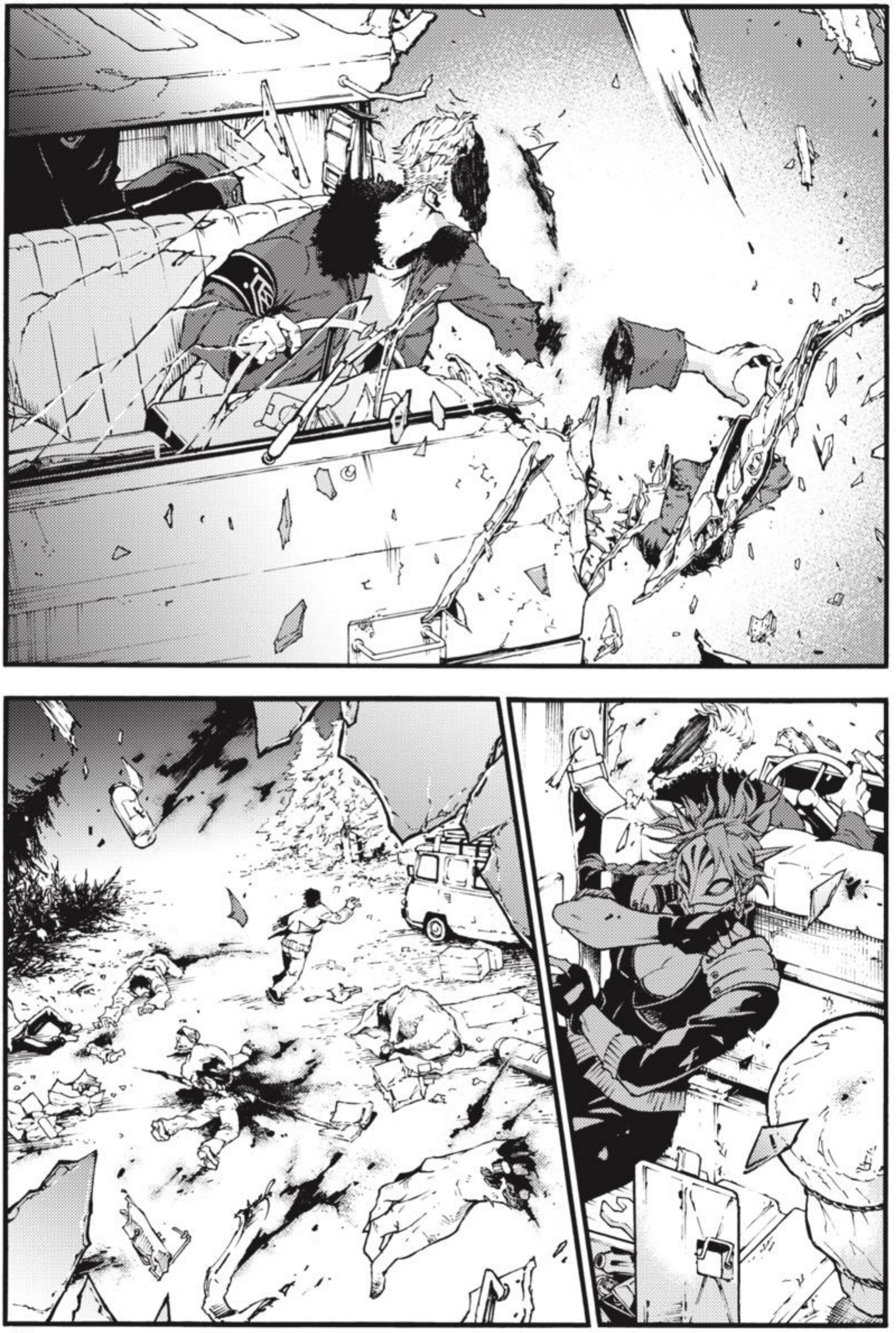
DON (THUD)

DON DON

.....

.....

—NEY.





DO (WHUMP)

WAAAAAH!

EEK...

...IT'S HERE!

—THEN THERE WILL BE PEACE.♪

Тогда настанет мир.

♪THE LITTLE BIRDS WILL SING CHEERFULLY.

Птички радость будут воспевать.



We'll bind the blessing with ice.♪
благословение льдом скуём.

Here's a surprise
Вот удивление,
inside the trap.
внутри ловушки

When
they peeked in,
Когда заглянули,
there was a little bird
and a little donkey
то там были птичка и ослёнок
and one more prey.♪
И была ещё одна добыча.

Tearfully crying,
Навзрыд плача:
"Oh, save us!"
«Ой-ой, спасите!»

TURNS OUT,
Оказалось,
IT WAS
что это
GOD.♪
был бог.

АНН...

DAMMIT.

I DUNNO WHAT MEAT'S WHOSE.

URP!

WHOA...

WHAT WAS THAT? WH...WHAT'S GOING ON...!?

...HEH HEH.

...HEY, HARU-CHAN.

...IT CAME OUT.

...AND THE REAL REASON WE CALLED YOU IN FROM THE MAIN BASE?

...YOU GET IT NOW, RIGHT?

WHY I WANT TO RUN AWAY...

...I REPORTED THIS TO EMMA, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME.

ZASHI (CRUNCH)

...IT HASN'T JUST BEEN NORMAL SPIDERS POPPING UP HERE IN THE NORTH.

THEY HAVE A LORD.

...IT'S PROBABLY THE BIGGEST...

...AND FIERCEST SPIDER OUT THERE RIGHT NOW—

...WE DON'T HAVE ANY ACTUAL DETAILS.

NO ONE EVER COMES BACK ALIVE.

GAN (THWACK)

...WE'LL HAVE TO DIG MORE GRAVES.

AHH!

DAMMIT!

THE TOILET PAPER'S...ALL BRIGHT RED!

BYUU (WHOOSH)

...YEAH.

IF WE DON'T FINISH QUICKLY, WE'LL HAVE WASTED OUR TIME.

THERE'S GOING TO BE A BLIZZARD TODAY.

YOU ALL GO BACK TO YOUR USUAL DUTIES.

...I'LL GO REPORT THIS TO THE TOWN.

—…

IT WOULD BE A WASTE IF YOU FROZE TO DEATH.

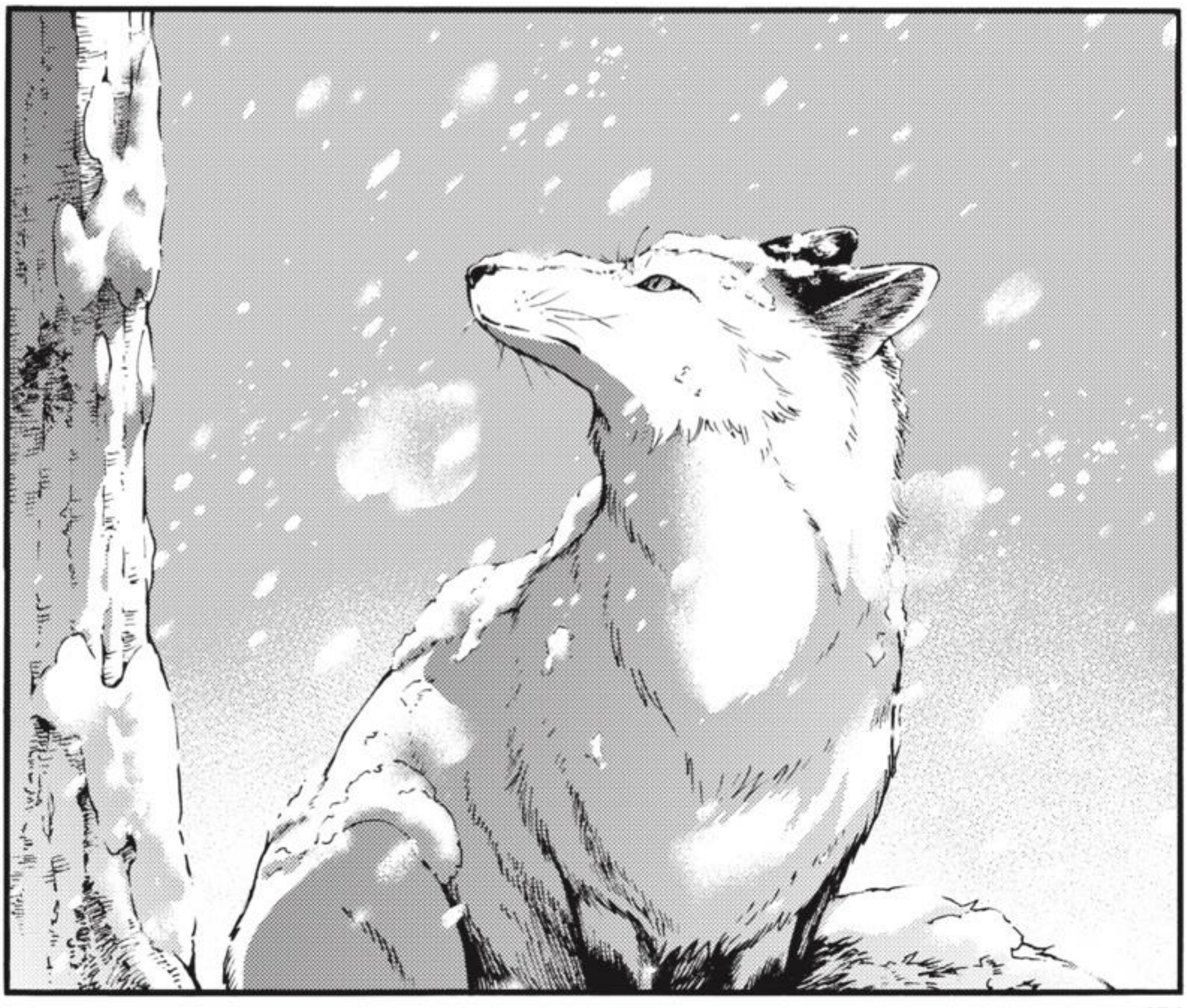
GNH.

…FH.

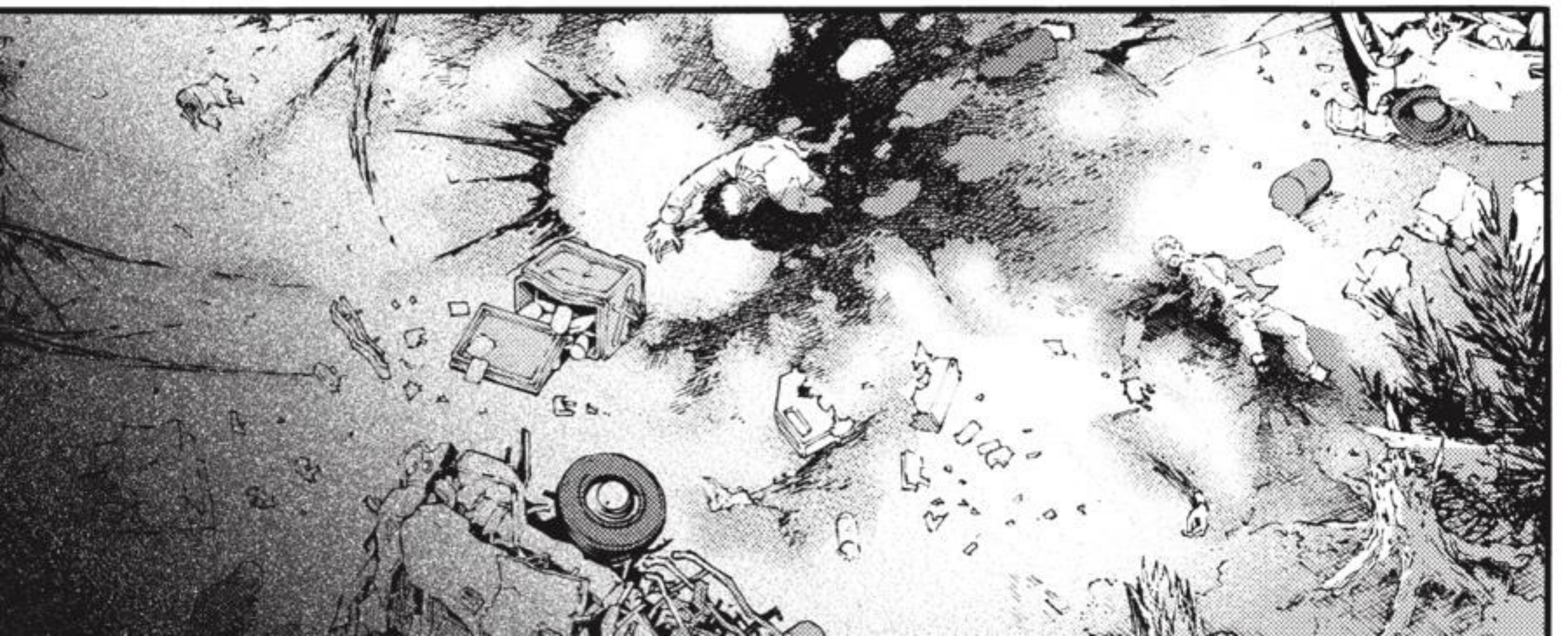
…YOU TOO, CAPTAIN.











Let us dig a grave
Давайте рыть могилу,
for God.♪
могилу бога.

THE amber, black
Янтарь чёрен,
like the darkest
night.♪
как ночь.

♪like li'l
eyes, open and
Как раскрытые,
staring in death.♪
глазкиумершего.

Nursery Rhyme from the Ogon' Region (Огонь)

Ding-ding ring the bells. Softly, softly falls the crown of snow.
With the sound of the bell, we'll drown out the gunshot. With the color of snow, we'll hide the blood.
Then there will be peace. The little birds will sing cheerfully. If we hide everything, we will be happy. Even amber is blackened like the color of rainbows.

Crack, crack, crackling, freeze, the sea's waves. Rise to anger, donkey's mother.
We'll bind the blessing with ice. How happy it is to hear the little donkey's crying.
Then there will be peace. The little donkey can also be taken away.
If we hide everything, it will be like a dream.
Even if it is a trap, one can dream.

Here's a surprise inside the trap.
When they peeked in, there was a little bird and a little donkey and one more prey.
Tearfully crying, "Oh, save us!"
Turns out, it was God.

Let us dig a grave for God.
The amber, black like the darkest night. Like li'l eyes, open and staring in death.

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN' PARADE #05

BY JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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WOR

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6

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

ZA (CRACKLE)

<—We've been having trouble getting in the drugs you requisitioned, Medical Officer.>

<Continue on for glory and victory—>

ZA

PAKI (SNAP)

ZA ZA ZA


14
June
CACTUS
ICE CREAM
DRINK
NUKECOLA
NUKECOLA
NUKECOLA
Choco Ben
#24
A CUNNING MATCH OF EQUALS
SMOKIN' PARADE
JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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Reform

SMOKIN' PARADE

CHARACTERS

AKUTA

A Jackalope who has taken a liking to Youkou because he sees himself in the kid. A heavy smoker with a sweet tooth.

YOUKOU KAKUJOU

A boy who lost both arms and his right leg when his younger sister turned into a Spider. He has replaced one missing arm with a Gear and joined the Jackalopes.

KOTOHARU

A member of the Jackalopes. He has an incredible amount of respect for Akuta and keeps a collection of items related to him.



THE LORD

Believed to be the largest and fiercest Spider currently in existence. It is terrorizing the northern region.



SPIDERS

Monsters with heightened physical abilities who rage out of control according to their base instincts.



KUKURI

The captain of the Jackalopes' northern base.



UDOU

The deputy director of the Jackalopes' northern base.



JIMO

ZAWA
(CLAMOR)

ZAWA

<Medicine and materials for transplants ...!?>

<We actually got some supplies all the way out here...?>

<Sadly, we are unable to end the fighting...>

<...but if we can at least save a few lives...>


〈THANK YOU.〉
〈MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO YOU...〉
Benefactor...
〈THANK YOU...〉
Creator...



GAN (THWACK)

GA (WHAM)

GAN

GAN

GAGI (CRACK)

—CHOPPING FIREWOOD LIKE THIS IS A WASTE OF ENERGY.

THIS IS THE PRICE OF THE STRENGTH OF YOUR GEARS.

YOUR BODY HAS CEASED TO GROW...AND THE NIGHT YET SLEEPS.

...EVEN IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF TOO FAR, I WILL STOP YOU.

YOU COULD NOT HAVE PREVENTED THIS...

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST THE *LORD* OF THE NIGHT.

JUST AS I DID WHEN WE FLED *HELL'S GATE.*

KORON (CLUNK)

...ALL WE GET TO EAT TODAY...!?

...IS THIS...

HEH-HEH. GUESS I'LL GO GET SOMETHING AT A RESTAURANT IN TOWN WITH MY OWN MONEY, THEN.

NO WAY.

YOUR STOMACH'S WAY TOO LOUD.

GURU (RUMBLE)

I CAN'T FOLLOW THE KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE. "ALWAYS EAT YOUR FILL EVERY DAY WHILE YOU'RE STILL GROWING"...

BORI (GNAW)

BORI

RU RU RU RU

...THE DEAL FELL THROUGH BECAUSE OF THE *LORD*.

...AWW.

TCH.

...YOU HAVE TO WATCH THEM.

BOSO (MUTTER)

GURU RU RU RU RU RU

...?

"WATCH"...?

THIS "LORD" STARTED APPEARING IN THE NORTHERN FORESTS APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AGO.

—A GREATER SPIDER.

ALL WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED IT HAVE PERISHED, SO WE STILL LACK DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT IT.
(WE ONLY HAVE SOME REPORTS FROM THOSE WHO SURVIVED A FEW HOURS.)

:CASE-03

:CASE-02

:CASE-01

...SO THE BEST PLAN OF ACTION IS TO ENFORCE MARTIAL LAW AT NIGHT AND JUST CONCENTRATE ON TAKING CARE OF THE SPIDERS DURING THE DAY.

—AT THE MOMENT, TAKING ON THE LORD WOULD BE ILLOGICAL...

IT ONLY APPEARS AT NIGHT AND IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND DURING THE DAY.

—MEANING THOSE OF YOU FROM THE MAIN BASE...

...SHOULD ALSO THINK OF THE LORD AS A NATURAL DISASTER, AND FORGET ABOUT IT.

JUST CARRY ON WITH BUSINESS AS NORMAL.

BATAN (SHUT)

...NO WAY CAN WE DO THAT.

THERE ARE SO MANY MYSTERIES WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT...

FIRST THE MYSTERY OF THE MULTIPLYING SPIDERS.

NOW THIS MYSTE-RIOUS MONSTER.

...All right!

WE AT LEAST NEED SOME MORE INTEL.

I WANNA GO HOME!

I CAN'T FORGET WHAT I SAW OUT THERE!

AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN ACTUALLY BE SURE WE'RE SAFE FROM THAT MONSTER DURING THE DAY!

GURU (RUMBLE) RU RU RU

DON'T EVEN GO THERE.

THAT MONSTER... THINK WE CAN EAT IT?

CAN I EAT THIS TREE?

DON'T.

We might be able to figure something out if I send this data to Doc.

Analyze tissue samples.

—We should investigate this for ourselves.

Let's do this!!

HYU (WHOOSH)

YOU'RE REALLY FIRED UP.

.....

BI (SNAG)

!

...WHATCHA LOOKING FOR?

OOOH, WHOOPS!

I THOUGHT IT WAS A DOG, BUT IT'S JUST YOU, HARU-CHAN.

OKAYYY?

SHÜRU (SLIDE)

SORRY, IT'S A LITTLE TANGLED.

JUST A MOMENT.

...UNTIE ME, JIMO.

GIN
(CLINK)

IS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT BY "WATCHING"?

DAN
(THUNK)

WHAT ARE YOU LOT HIDING!?

click

BUSHU (PSSSHT)

KNEECAP GEARS...

...!

..."GUI PAO"!

("SPECTRAL VANISH"!)

HEH HEH!

BAKI (SNAP)

YOU COWARD ...

...!

SHU (FWISH)

OH, BUT YOU'LL BE JUST FINE. IT'S NOT LETHAL TODAY.

YOU REALLY FELL FOR IIIIT!

THESE ARE MY ACTUAL GEARS!♡

I HEARD YOU WERE RAISED GOOD, YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD, AND YOU DON'T REALLY COMMIT.

YOU'RE JUST WEAK.

GAN (THUD)

GA (GRAB)

OOP!

!

DAMN.

HYURU (WHOOSH)

THIS IS YOUR PUN-ISHMENT.

I DON'T CARE FOR YOU.

YOU'RE HALF-ASSED AND LAZY...

YOU PRETEND TO BE ALL ABOUT WEAKNESS.

UGH!

GORI (GRIND)

SO WHAT DOES SCUM LIKE YOU...

...WANT TO HIDE SO BADLY HE'D SHOW HIS HAND TO DO IT?

IF YOU WON'T SAY, THEN I'LL GIVE YOU SOME NEW PLACES ON YOUR BODY THAT ARE JUST BEGGING FOR NEW GEARS...

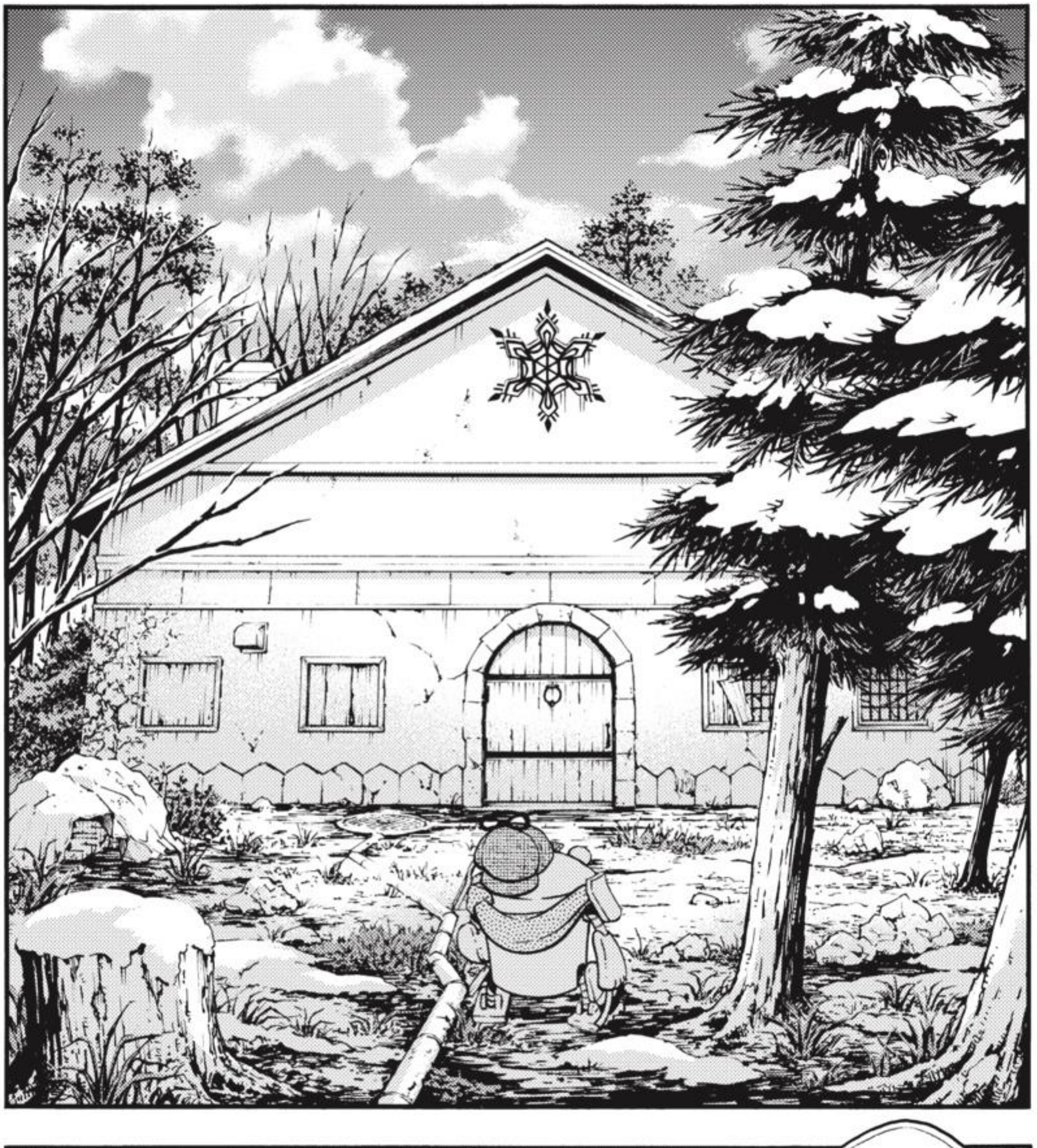
...JIMO.

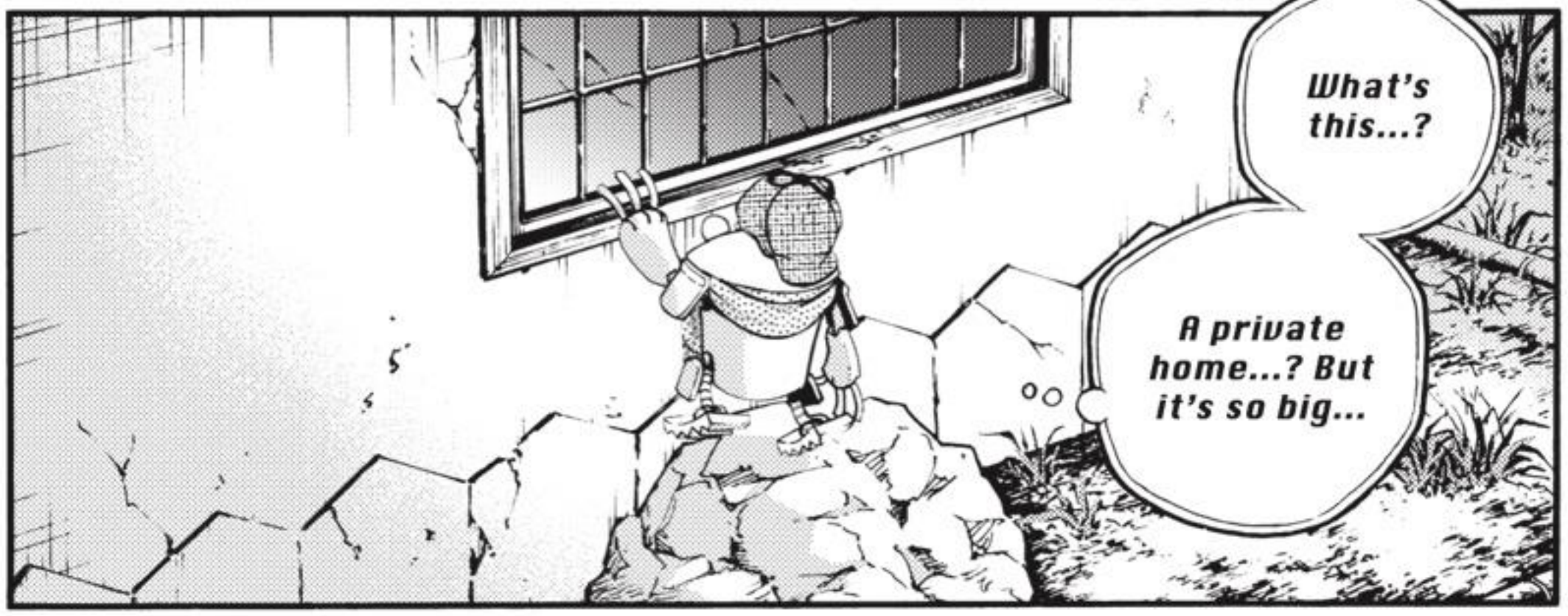
Hmm.

The tracks are gone now.

GASA (RUSTLE)

A pipe?




What's this...?
A private home...? But it's so big...

...!!?

EEK!

AAAAAHH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE...?

!

DA (TMP) DA

DON'T LOOK!

...THE HELL...? WHO ARE THEY...?

WHA?

JIMO, YOU ASS!

WHAT ARE THESE MAIN BASE PEOPLE DOING HERE?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT...

GATA (RATTLE) GATA

HUH?

AWWW!

THEY FOUND US?

SO HIDE-AND-SEEK IS OVER NOW?

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

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JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

ZA
CRUNCH

#25

...I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU...

...SORRY...

...WHAT!?

SNIFF...

.....

WHAT IS IT?

Like I said...

...the guys from the main base went into the woods...

#25
A DECISIVE THROW OF THE DICE

...and found the kids from the Dome...!

THE THING THE NORTHERNERS HAVE BEEN HIDING...

...IS THESE STRANGE KIDS...!?

SPIDERS!? NO, THEY'RE NOT.

THIS LOOKS... ARTIFICIAL ...?

YOU BASTARDS... WHAT DID YOU DO TO THESE KIDS...?

...HEY!

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA HERE. THESE KIDS—

...HEY.

IF HIDE-AND-SEEK IS OVER, THEN...

ZA

ZA (STOMP)

!!!

WA AAA

...LET'S PLAAAAY!

LET'S HAVE A PARTY WITH CAKE!!

YEAHH!

WHOO-HOO! AND THERE'S LOTS OF NEW PEOPLE HERE TOO!

OW, OW, OW, OW, OW, OW!

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THIS TIME!

!?

SHO... THEY'RE...

...JUS' KIDSH YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF?

—YEAH. THEY'VE GO' NUFFING TO DO WI' THE SPIDERSH OR THE LORD.

THEY'RE KINDA LIKE ORPHANSH.

...AND SOME KIDS WHO RAN AWAY FROM A HUMAN EXPER-IMENTATION FACILITY.

...ORPHANED KIDS WHO GOT ABANDONED IN THE WOODS BECAUSE THEIR VILLAGES WERE TOO POOR...

THEY'RE REFUGEES FROM ACROSS THE BORDER...

GII (CREAK)

...THESE KIDS ARE OUR PAST.

THE SEEDS OF THE FUTURE.

...?

AND...

...OUR FAMILY.

OVER-PROTEC-TIVE!

BUT WE NEEDED TO KEEP YOU SAFE...

HE'S RIGHT, CAPTAIN!

HIDE-AND-SEEK IS SUPER BORING!

ARRGH!

OVER-PROTEC-TIVE!

...OH. WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT EARLIER?

BETWEEN THE KIDS AND THE LORD...YOU GUYS HIDE WAY TOO MUCH.

—THINGS HAVE ONLY GOTTEN MORE COMPLICATED BECAUSE YOU WENT AGAINST MY ADVICE AND BROUGHT THE PEOPLE FROM THE MAIN BASE HERE.

URGH...

.....

Earlier... you said "human experimentation." What was that about?

.....SEE? COMPLICATED.

—AHHH, THIS PLACE BRINGS ME BACK.

BEFORE THE WAR DESTROYED EVERYTHING, I USED TO PLAY WITH THE CHILDREN OUT ON THAT ISLAND.

I WONDER IF THEY'RE ALL DOING WELL...

SNIFFL!

WELL...

KYLIN (TWINGE)

THE WAY YOUR NOSE IS RUNNING IS AMAZING TOO!

COME ON, SIR.

IT'S WAY TOO KIND OF YOU TO BE WORRYING ABOUT OTHERS WHILE WE FREEZE OUT HERE!

...THERE'S THIS LITTLE ISLAND, NO MORE THAN TWENTY KM AROUND.

...UP NORTH, OUT IN THE OCEAN NEAR THE BORDER...

AMENOTORI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LAB, HELL'S GATE 901.

AMENOTORI'S ADVANCED TRANSPLANT TECH...

...THE EXPERIMENTAL TECH THEY USE IN THE SPIDERS...

...AND ALL OF THEIR RAPID TECH ADVANCEMENTS COME FROM THESE HELL'S GATES ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

AND THE CUSTOMER COMES FIRST, RIGHT?

...BOTH THE CHILDREN AND THE INJURED SOLDIERS ARE OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS, AFTER ALL.

SOME OF THE KIDS FROM THE DOME ARE VICTIMS OF THAT ISLAND.

...AREN'T AMENOTORI'S VICTIMS DANGEROUS?

...WAIT.

...WAS BECAUSE IT WOULD BE A WASTE DEALING WITH THE ADDED CONCERNS AND INTERFERENCE THAT WOULD COME FROM THE FOOLISH MISCONCEPTIONS AND PREJUDICES FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

THE REASON WE KEPT THIS FROM THE MAIN BASE...

HAAH...

WE HAVE, OF COURSE, BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON THEM AND TREATING THEM.

!

OH! JIMO!

YOUR PANTS ARE WET! I'LL WASH THEM FOR YOUUU!

.....

HAAH...

...TO THINK THAT EVEN OUR SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS WOULD FAIL TO KEEP YOU AWAY.

GIRARI (GLARE)

I DON'T WANNA SCARE THE PEOPLE FROM THE MAIN BASE.

UM... BUT, UH...

CAPTAIN, DO YOU HAVE A HAT OR A TOWEL OR SOMETHING?

NO, IT'S OKAY.

SORRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS IN FRONT OF YOU GUYS...

—I...

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

...LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE TOWNSPEOPLE...

.....

OH HEY, LET'S PLAY A VKONTAKTE GAME!

ISN'T IT!?

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S KINDA LIKE SOMETHING TO PROVE YOU'RE A SURVIVOR. IT'S PRETTY COOL.

We made these desserts for everyone, blub.

You're eating way too much, blub.

.....

YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING!

IT'S REALLY NICE TO FILL YOURSELF UP WITH GOOD FOOD, ISN'T IT?

HUH? DID YOU MAKE ALL OF THIS?

RRR...

...HEY.

I'VE SEEN THAT BEFORE...

THAT MARK...

HM?

!!?

I'LL STICK YOU ON A SKEWER FROM ASS TO EYES, RUB YOU DOWN IN ROCK SALT, AND GRILL YOU UP, YOU BASTARD!

ARE YOU TRYING TO TOY WITH A YOUNG GIRL'S HEART?

I'M GLAD THEY'RE WARMING UP TO THEM.

WHOA!

RANKA TALKED!

SHE NEVER DOES THAT!

HEY.

STILL...

THE CAPTAIN, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND ALL THE OTHERS...

...ALWAYS ACT ALL COOL AND EVERY-THING, SURE...

YOU KNOW... MY DREAM IS TO BE ONE OF THE JACKALOPES.

YOU THINK I CAN GET A GEAR FROM THE MAIN BASE?

...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A GROWN-UP LOOK SO WORRIED FOR SOMEONE BEFORE.

...AND ACTUALLY, I KINDA...

...WANNA MAKE THAT FACE MYSELF...

THAT'S WHY I WANNA PAY THEM BACK FOR THAT, AT LEAST A LITTLE.

YOU WANNA BE STRONG?

I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND.

NO WAY.

I IMAGINE... YOU MUST HAVE A COLLECTION OF ALL THE THINGS YOUR IDOL HAS USED AS WELL?

YEAH...

MM? HEY...

DIDN'T HE WANT TO BE AN ASTRONOMER?

OH? SO YOU'RE A PERVERT, KOTOHARU-SAN?

WHAT ARE THOSE DAMNED BRATS GETTING ALL CHUMMY WITH THEM FOR...?

UGH.

...HE GAVE UP ON THAT BECAUSE YOU CAN ONLY SEE THE STARS AT NIGHT.

AND NIGHTTIME IS THE LORD'S TIME AROUND HERE.

—NO.

HEY.

WHERE'S RERA? ISN'T SHE COMING?

SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING UP SOME ACORNS TO USE FOR COOKIES.

WHO'S THAT?

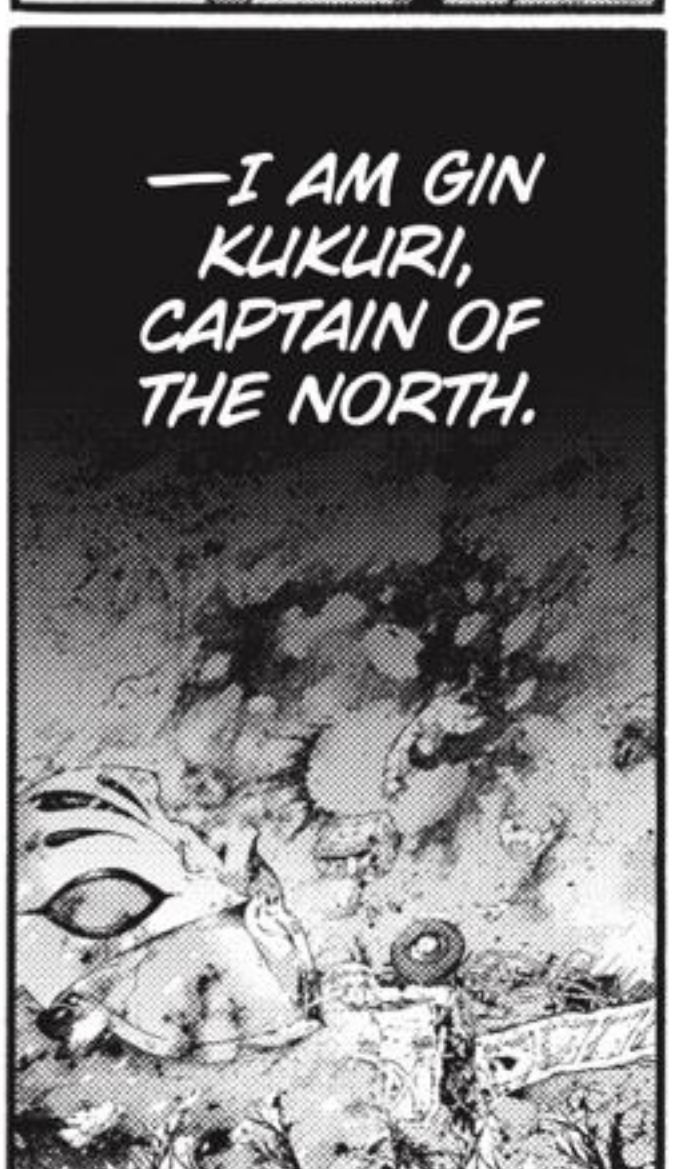
I'LL ASK ABOUT HER.



I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SHED TEARS.



—I AM GIN KUKURI, CAPTAIN OF THE NORTH.



TIME FOR AN EMERGENCY RESERVES MEETING!!

OUR MAIN PRIORITY MUST BE CAPTURING AND ELIMINATING THE LORD!!

I THINK THE GUYS FROM THE MAIN BASE HAVE FIGURED THAT OUT NOW.

THE LORD IS OUR ENEMY !!

WE ARE THE HORNS OF THE NORTH!!

DON (THUD)

A SOLID BLOCK OF STRONG, UNBREAKING ICE!!

WE MUST PROTECT THOSE WHO NEED PROTECTING.

WE CANNOT LOSE ANY MORE PEOPLE!

.....

THEREFORE, I AM LIFTING THE NIGHTTIME MARTIAL LAW!

FOR SOME REASON, THE LORD IS ACTIVE AT NIGHT.

BA (WHOOSH)

!

WE'LL RUN PATROLS DURING THE NIGHT AND IMPROVE THE CAPABILITIES OF OUR COMMS DEVICES TO—

...SINCE IT SEEMS THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO SAY THIS BUT CANNOT...

...I WILL SPEAK UP FOR THEM, CAPTAIN KUKURI.

ACQUIRING MORE WEAPONS AND MAINTAINING THE CURRENT STOCK TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSES WOULD BE ...

...IMPOS-SIBLE.

RATIONING THE FOOD SUPPLIES TO ADJUST TO THE NEEDS OF SIX-HOUR SHIFTS WOULD BE...

...IMPOS-SIBLE.

GETTING THE GASOLINE WE WOULD NEED TO ACT DURING THE NIGHTTIME WOULD BE...

...IMPOS-SIBLE.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LIST OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN SACRIFICED TO THE LORD?

THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT ARE SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE.

WE DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES. IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF OUR HUMAN CAPITAL.

Click..

...OF COURSE I HAVE.

.....

DOGO (WHAM)

!!

I SPEND TOO MUCH TIME SEEING IT EVERY SINGLE DAY...!

...but there are just too many people to protect or lose.

...They all get it...

...

I hope the data on the Lord that I sent Doc will come in handy.

But still, "a captain's responsi-bility"...

.....

GATA (CLATTER)

DAMMIT.

PON (PAT)

...WE'RE DONE HERE.

GATAN (CLATTER)

THIS LORD IS DEFINITELY A BAD GUY, RIGHT...?

SO IF WE TAKE HIM DOWN...

...THOSE KIDS'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY AROUND THE CAMPFIRE OUTSIDE, RIGHT?

...
seems
...

...like way too heavy a burden—like cumbersome gears.

ISN'T SOMETHING THAT OBVIOUS...

...SOMETHING WE SHOULD OBVIOUSLY DO?

...YOUKOU KAKUJOU.

YOU TRULY ARE OFF THE RAILS IN JUST THE RIGHT WAY.

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS DELIBERATELY IGNORING THE PROBLEM WITHOUT GIVING ANY THOUGHT TO OUR SITUATION.

I HAVE AN IDEA WHERE THE LORD MIGHT HIDE DURING THE THE DAY...

ZA CCRUNCH

ZA

...AND WHERE IT MIGHT HAVE COME FROM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

ZURU (SLIDE)

I WANT TO HEAD THERE TO LOOK FOR SOME CLUES TO HOW WE MIGHT DEFEAT IT.

WE'RE TAKING A BOAT?

YEAH.

I WAS ALSO ON THAT ISLAND ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO.

THE AMENOTORI LAB...!

.....

...IF YOU AREN'T FEELING UP TO THIS...

...YOU CAN STILL TURN BACK NOW, YOUKOU.

THIS *LORD* GUY IS REALLY BIG, RIGHT?

...HEY.

HOW MANY POINTS FOR TAKING HIM DOWN?


ONE HUNDRED, OF COURSE!

LET'S GO.

TO HELL'S GATE 901!!

...HONESTLY.

SHE IS JUST FAR TOO RECKLESS.

シュル
SHURU (SLIDE)

WHAT WILL WE DO IF THE MAIN BASE...

...INTERFERES FURTHER AND KILLS OFF THE LORD...?

THAT WOULD BE A WASTE OF SUCH BEAUTY.

SMOKIN³

THE WORLD IS DEAD,

PARADE

THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA

KAZUMA KONDOU

THE FIRST THING I EVER HEARD SOMEONE CALL ME...

.....WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?

#26

THE PAIN OF FACING THE ENEMY

LIKE NAMES AND NORMALITY.

OLD MAN KAKUJOU GAVE ME LOTS OF STUFF.

I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE "IDIOT" OR "TRASH."

I JUST REMEMBERED ONE OF THE WORDS HE GAVE ME.

OR I GUESS...

...IT'S MORE LIKE I FINALLY GET IT.

THINK I'LL MAKE IT A NEW FAMILY RULE.

"— GENERALLY SPEAKING...

"...SOMEONE WHO GRITS THEIR TEETH AND KEEPS SMILING IS SOMEONE YOU CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH."

HELL'S GATE 901.

...IS MY PAST...

...THIS...

GYU (CLENCH)

KATA (TREMBLE)

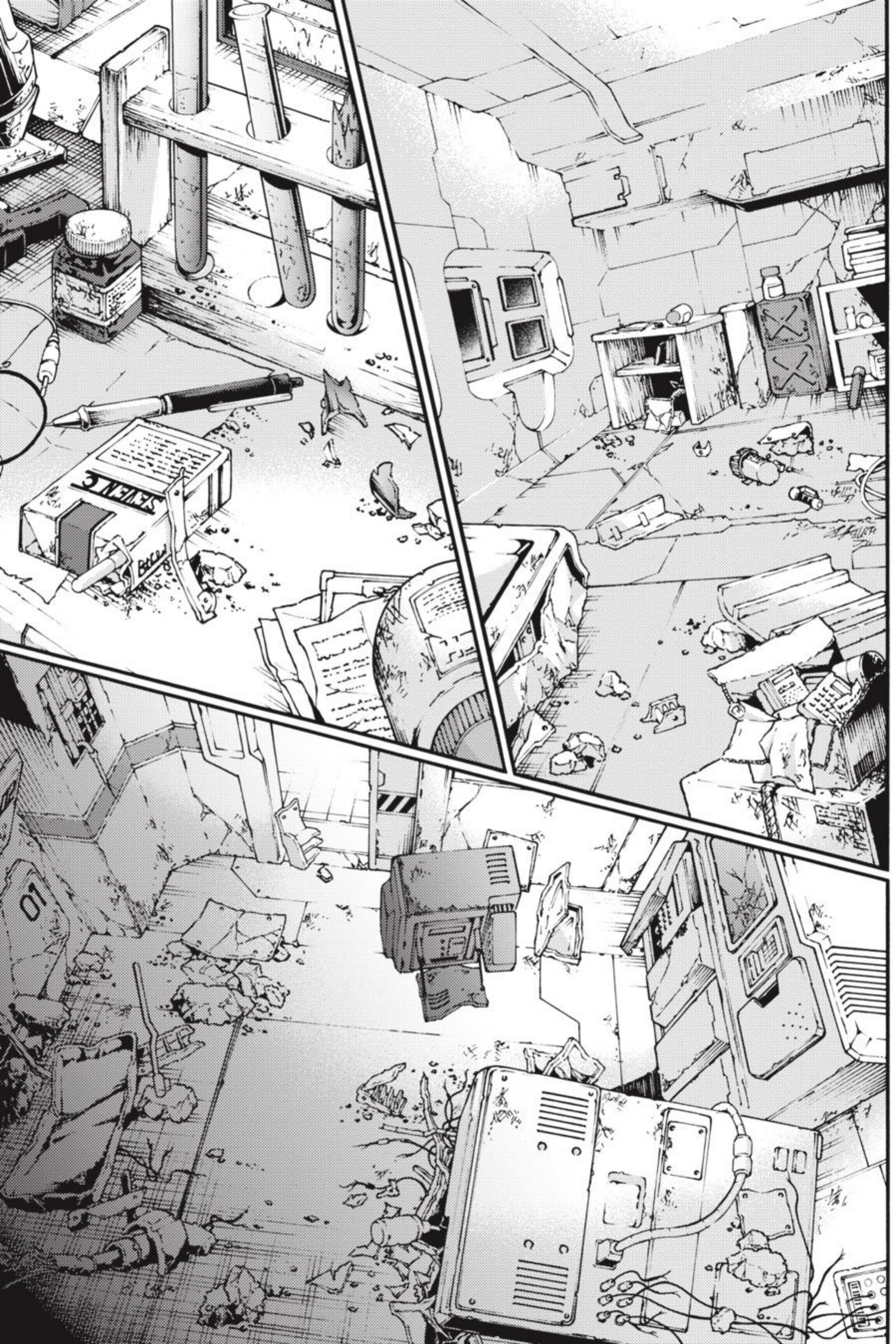
KATA

...THEN THIS IS WHERE WE'LL FIND OUT ABOUT IT!

IF IT'S SOME SORT OF SUDDEN MUTATION...

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THE ***LORD*** IS NO NORMAL SPIDER.

LEVEL


3 NEWS
01

THIS PLACE IS A WRECK.

.....

WAS IT ALWAYS THIS SMALL...?

IT'S WAY MORE NORMAL THAN I WAS EXPECTING.

GASHAN (KA-THUNK)

I BROUGHT A PORTABLE GENERATOR WITH ME.

.....

ALL RIGHT. LET'S GET THE POWER BACK ON AND TAKE A LOOK AT THIS DATA.

YEAH!

.....

...I THINK MAYBE WE...

...CONNECT THE LINES...

...OR CUT SOME-THING...

...HOW DO WE DO THAT?

BACHIN (SNAP)

KUWA (CLENCH)

OR HIT SOME-THING...

WAIT, WAIT, WAAAIT...

!?

PA (SHINE)

EMERGENCY POWER

THERE'S SO MUCH DATA HERE...

HUH? BUT I DIDN'T HIT IT YET...!!

LOOK!

I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL...!

I WONDER IF THOSE ARE SHIFTS.

I CAN READ THIS PART.

THERE'S NAMES...AND HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT HERE?

8:15-23:10, 9:30-15:11...

THIS SAYS "PERSONNEL REGISTER."

anguage

THAT'S "NO ACCESS"!!

THE IMPORTANT STUFF ALL SAYS "NO ACES."

PI (BEEP)

WHOA, YOU GET REALLY LOUD WHEN YOU'RE CONFIDENT ABOUT SOMETHING.

I DON'T THINK AAANY OF THIS IS ABOUT THE LORD.

NO ACCESS

GI (CREAK)

PI

OH.

THERE'S SOMETHING IN HERE...?

IT LOOKS MORE SPACIOUS IN THERE.

NO ACCESS

KA

KA (CLACK)

NAME

Лавров Udoh

Lavrov Udou

SEX

NAME

Yuè Fēi

SEX

.....

THIS HALLWAY...?

KO (TOK)

KA

?

GII (SCREECH) GIIKIKI

.....

.....

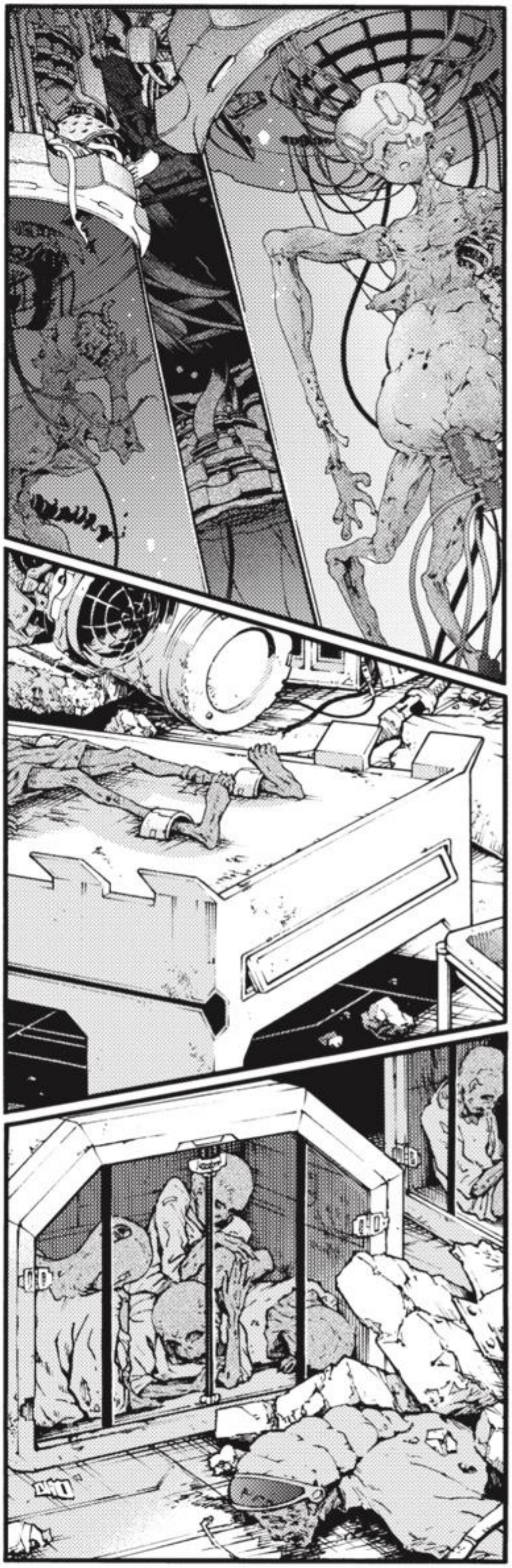
I'M... REMEMBERING SOMETHING.

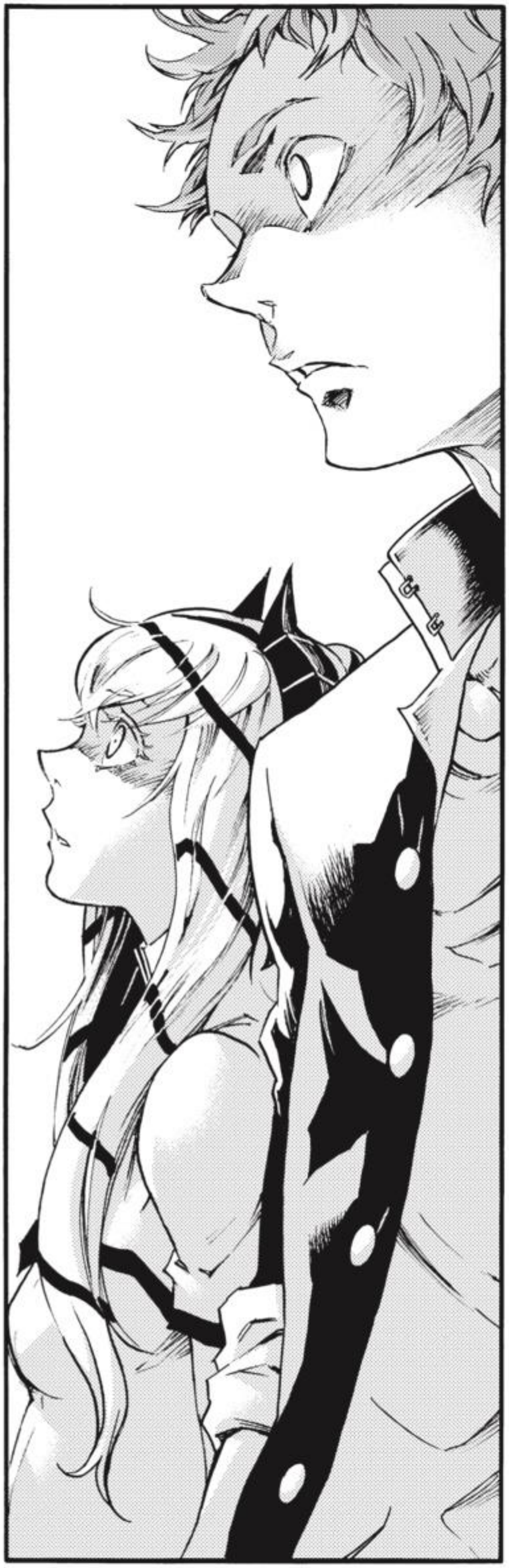
A SOUND ...?

THESE LINES DON'T LOOK LIKE A PATTERN.

THEY'RE SCRATCHES?

WHA?





GIGI (SCREECH)

GII

—IT.

STOP IT!

GI

KI

KI

KI

KI

DON'T TAKE ME TO THAT ROOM...!

...OH.

NONE OF THEM HAVE ANY FINGERNAILS.

...THIS IS JUST A GRAVE. THERE'S NOTHING HERE.

...WE'RE LEAVING, YOUKOU-KUN.

REALLY?

WE SHOULD LOOK AROUND A LITTLE...

GON (THUNK)

"HEY."

"MY ——————"

HUH?

SOMETHING...

...SOMEONE ONCE CALLED ME...?

GATAN (CLATTER)

HM!? WHAT WAS THAT...?

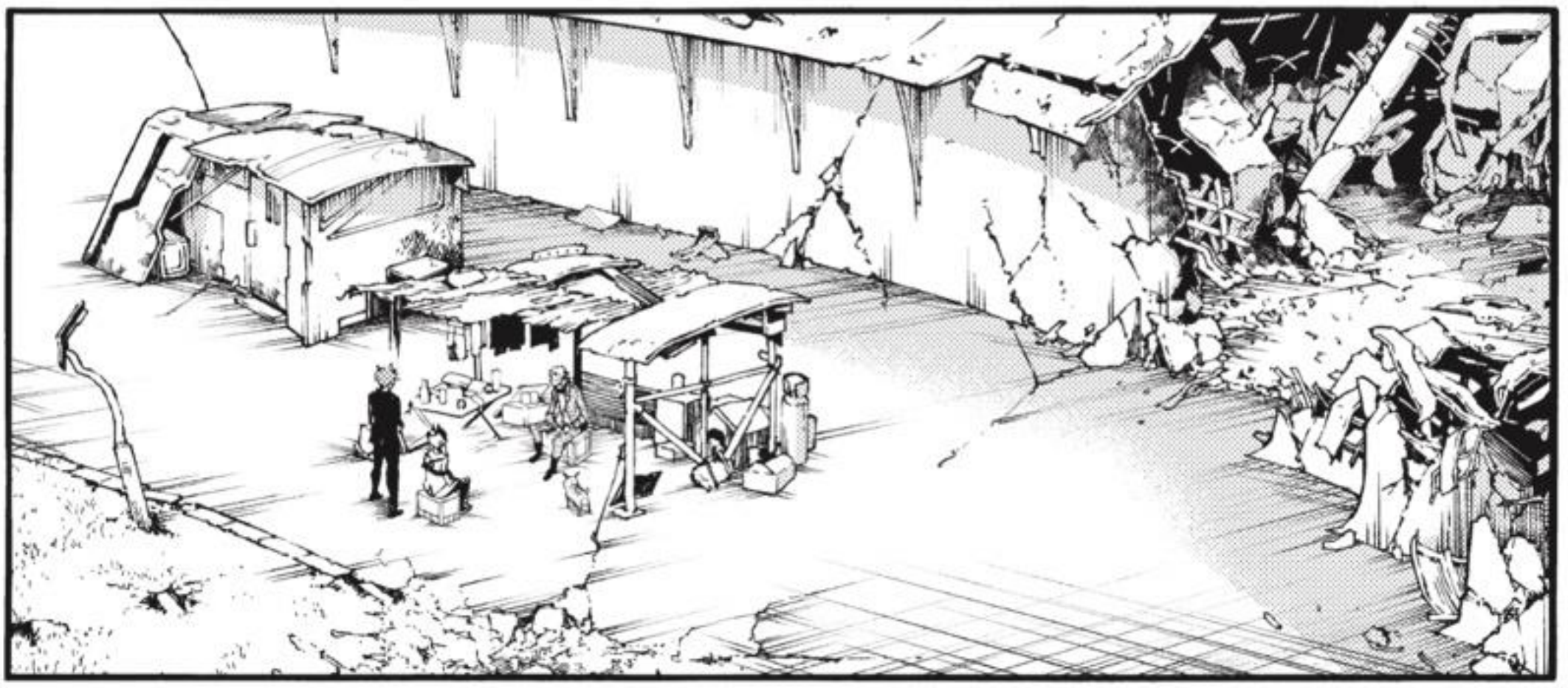
GARA (CRUMBLE)

!?


!?
WHOA!?
THAT MUMMY'S ALIVE!?
HE LOOKS PRETTY ENERGETIC!?


HEEEEY!
ЭЭЭЭЭЭЙ!


MY DOG WAS GETTING WORKED UP, SO I TURNED ON THE POWER...
WHAT ARE YOU KIDS DOING HERE?
<Who're you? You from the overseas territory?>
Кто Вы? Люди из заморских территорий?
AND I'M NOT A MUMMY!



I KNOW IT'S TIME, BUT I GET SLEEPY IF I TAKE THAT MEDICINE.

AND I FINALLY HAVE SOME GUESTS. LET ME TALK TO THEM.

THERE, THERE, DOGGY.

B—

BORK!

BORK...

.....

WHA ...?

WELL, LOOK AT ITS COLLAR.

(CHA (CLINK)

A DOG...

HEY! GOOD DOGGY.

GOOD DOGGY.

IF IT'S A DOG, THEN IT'S CUTE.

BORK!

HEEEEY!

THAT'S NO DOG!

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A SPIDER, BUT...

...BUT IT'S NOT FLUFFY AT ALL!

YOU'RE SO PICKY...

THAT'S A LOVELY COLOR...

...YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT'S A PRETTY PIECE OF AMBER.

—IT'S BEEN DESTROYED BY ALL THE FIGHTING...

...BUT IT'S LIKELY TURNED INTO WHAT IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS PLACE.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS ORIGINALLY A RAT OR A DOG...

...BUT YOU SAW JUST HOW SCREWED UP THIS LAB IS, DIDN'T YOU?

THEY WERE USING SOMETHING CALLED A "MAGATAMA" TO REBUILD LIVING THINGS.

IT'S SOME SORT OF FUNGUS OR PROTOZOAN THAT THEY FOUND IN THE ANTARCTIC OR AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA OR SOMETHING—

NOT THAT THAT REALLY MATTERS.

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THEY SHOVED IT INTO A BUNCH OF PEOPLE.



...IT GOT PRETTY HOT THIS ONE SUMMER DAY HERE.

I REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT ONE OF THE RESEARCHERS SAID, WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE, EVEN.

"IF WE USE THE MAGATAMA, PEOPLE ARE BASICALLY LIKE CLAY IN OUR HANDS.

"IT MAKES A MAN FEEL LIKE A GOD."

—REMEMBERING THAT...

...CHILLS ME DOWN TO THE BONE.

AFTER AMENOTORI BOUGHT THIS PLACE, ALL THE DECENT RESEARCHERS WERE DRIVEN AWAY.

IT BECAME SUCH A HELL THAT IT ALMOST MADE AN OLD DESERTER LIKE ME WANT TO GO BACK TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

...OLD MAN.

IT HAS SHARP, THICK LEGS TWICE AS BIG AS A WHITE BIRCH.

AND IT'S EVEN MORE FEROCIOUS THAN A MOTHER BROWN BEAR IN THE SPRINGTIME.

WE FIGURED ITS HIDING SPOT MIGHT BE IN THE OCEAN OR ON THIS ISLAND—

WE CAME HERE TO INVESTIGATE IT.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ***LORD***...A GIANT MONSTER?

HMM...

KARI (SKRITCH)

THERE'S PROBABLY SOMEONE WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THESE THINGS THAN ME, THOUGH.

HUH?

OH.

IF IT WERE, I'D BE DEAD BY NOW.

IT'S NOT HERE.

HUH?

HE'S A STRANGE ONE. HE EXAMINES ME...

...AND GIVES ME MEDICINE AND FOOD.

FN-111

WHERE IS THIS PERSON?

WELL, HE SHOWS UP WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT HIM.

...YOU SICK, OLD MAN?

YEAH. THAT MEDICINE.

BORK! BORK!

I'M FINE. SOMETIMES I JUST DON'T...

...SLEEP WELL...

SLEEP?

NAH...

.....

URK.

YOU'RE ALL BANDAGED UP TOO... YOU HURT?

...WITHOUT...

...GETTING HURT.

IF I TAKE THE MEDICINE...

...I WAKE UP...

MEKI (CRIK)

BORK! BORK!

BORK! BORK!!

GI (KRK)

MEGI (CRACK)

...OLD MAN?

MEGI

KI

GI

MEGI

KI

...!?

MEGI

ME

メギ

MEGI
(CRACK)

RR...

AA

AA

AA

!!?

BAGI (KRRK)

GI (KRAK)

WHAT IN...

...THE WORLD!?

GI

GRRAAA

NO WAY.

HEY, HE'S REALLY BIG!

AND HE WAS TOTALLY NORMAL UNTIL JUST A BIT AGO!!

VOVO (RUMBLE)

HE TURNED INTO A SPIDER ...!?

BUT HIS HEAD DIDN'T CHANGE...?

IS THIS OLD MAN THE LORD...!?

GIVE ME A BREAK! DAMMIT...!

DO (THUNK)

GAA (CRUSH)

...!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OLD MAN?

...I GUESS HE'S NOT "OLD MAN" ANYMORE.

GO (WHAM)

LEFT ARM GEAR...

...."THE FIST"!!

BOGOGO (GLOOP)

...BUT THAT SHOULD BE A K.O...

UUUGH. HE'S REALLY HARD...

I ENDED UP GIVING IT A NAME.

GI (CREAK)

HEY! HE'S HEALING!?

NO.

UGH...

HIS TISSUES ARE MULTIPLYING ...!?

IF WE DON'T GET SERIOUS, WE'LL GET OURSELVES KILLED.

GRAAA!

GYA!

SHOULDER GEARS "ASURA."



...GIN KUKURI, CAPTAIN OF THE NORTH...

DOCHA (SHHHNK)

...DOESN'T HOLD BACK.

SHE REALLY IS PRETTY AMAZING.

AND SHE'S SO SMALL...

JUST HOW...

SHE'S FASTER THAN KOTO-HARU.

AND SHE HITS AS HARD AS OLD MAN AKUTA.

...?

SHUU (FSSHH)

BOGO (GLOOP)

HOW MUCH HAS SHE BEEN THROUGH...?

BOGOGO

BO

BU (SQUELCH)

...! AGAIN!?

DAMN...

IT JUST NEVER ENDS...

DO (THUD)

ON THREE...

THEN WE'LL BOTH HAVE TO HIT HIM AT THE SAME TIME!

DOKUN (BADUM)

!?

BRGG

HAH...

CAN'T BREATHE...

MY BODY...

WHAT THE!?

DOKU (THUM)

DO (THUMP)

...AH.

CAPTAIN!?

MY MIND...

...IS...

CAPTAIN!?

...HAH.

KACHA (CLINK)

HAAH...

HAH...

IT HURTS...

SOMEONE HELP ME!

SOME-ONE...

ANYONE!

AAA

WEE

OH SHIT.

THE LITTLE MOUSE JUST FELL.

NO WAY.

NO ONE—

DON (WHAM)

GA (THUD)

...!

BOCHA. (SPLAT)

CAP—

DAMMIT!

MODEL NINE, NUMBER 201, MODEL TWO, NUMBER 69— <COMPOUND>.

PAN (THWACK)

BO (WHOOSH)

FREEZE.

...Извините.
<...I'm sorry.>

PUSHU (PSSHT)

GAAH!

PIKI (CRACK)

KI

BO



DAN (LEAP)

DO (WHUMP)

PUSHU (PSHT)

...YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A TOMBOY, CAPTAIN.

UDOU...?

OH.

.....

HFF!

...YOU...
AGAIN.

DON
(BLAM)

GUSHA (CRASH)

·KOFF!·

OH... YOU'RE ALIVE.

...GOOD.

HE'S THE ONE FROM THE LAB WHO ALWAYS LOOKS REALLY MAD...

!?

BASHA (SPLASH)

RATHER THAN WAIT TO DIE SPENDING EVERY DAY ON THAT NAUSEATING RESEARCH...

...IT WOULD BE A WASTE NOT TO DIE SAVING THE EYES THAT I FELL FOR INSTEAD...

HUH?

OKAY, YOU'RE NOT DOING TOO BAD.

?

LET'S JUST RUN FOR NOW.

KOFF...

I DON'T MEAN THAT SORT OF... YOU KNOW...

UH, I MEAN...

!

HA HA...

ZABA (SPLASH)

YOU'RE MY HERO...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRAIN, I JUST CAN'T WIN...

YOU'RE IN THE OCEAN AND ALL BLOODY AGAIN.

HEY, YOU OKAY?

WE'RE FINE.

WHERE'S THE BOAT, NEWCOMER?

UHHH, IT'S IN THE WEST BAY.

HUH?

...HE DIDN'T SWIM ALL THE WAY HERE, DID HE...?

THAT'S AMAZING.

WHAT EXACTLY...

...IS "FINE" ABOUT HIM?

—OH.

...YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN PAIN, UDOU.

I'M FINE NOW.

I ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS, DON'T I?

I GET IT. HE'S...

...ALSO SOMEONE WHO GRITS HIS TEETH AND KEEPS SMILING.

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD

DEAD,

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA

KAZUMA KONDOU

THE PARAD

WILL START

#27
PERILOUS SITUATION

HMM...

I DIDN'T SEND YOU OUT AS A SPY SO YOU COULD SEND ME POEMS, YOU KNOOOW.

GAJI GAJI (NIBBLE)

I WAS MORE LOOKING FOR UNIQUE WAYS THE NORTHERNERS FIX THEIR GEARS AND SUUUCH.

KACHA (CLATTER)

OH?

YOU'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF REHAB AFTER HAVING THE NERVES IN YOUR LEGS RECONNECTED, MIDARI.

I'D LOVE TO GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE GEARS THEY HAVE UP NORTH.

AND ALSO, YOU COULD AT LEAST TRY USING A RECIPE ON THE DAYS WHEN YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE COOKING...?

DODEEN (TA-DAA!)

HUH?

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MY WIFE?

PIRA (FLUTTER)

KOFF!

IT'S REALLY GOOD...!

OF COURSE NOT!

MM? WHAT'S ALL THIS "LORD" STUFF?

THIS SOME SORT OF FISHING MANGA?

THAT'S PRETTY MUCH PURE SYRUP!

YOU GOT ME ALL WET AND STICKY!

WANT ME TO LICK IT OFF FOR YOU?

MATSU-GO!!

BFFT!

WHOA!

NO...IT'S A MUTANT SPIDER UP NORTH.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE OVER TEN FEET TALL.

THAT'S WHY I'M LOOKING FOR ITS WEAKNESS.

KACHA (CLACK) カチャ

KOTOHARU...

...SOMETIMES PUSHES HIMSELF IN SOME PRETTY WILD WAYS...

OVER TEN METERS TALL...

WONDER IF THE KIDS ARE DOING OKAY.

ACCORDING TO THE DATA FROM THESE TISSUE SAMPLES...

...IT HAS SOME SORT OF DRUG-RESISTANT GENES IN IT.

LIKE THOSE NEW STRAINS OF VIRUSES THAT CAME ABOUT BECAUSE WE OVERUSE ANTIBIOTICS?

DRUG-RESISTANT ...?

YEAH, LIKE THAT.

ISN'T THAT INTERESTING?

DINER

AND EVEN MORE INTERESTING IS THAT THE UNIQUE TRAITS...

...THIS "LORD" GETS FROM ITS RESISTANCE...

...MAKE IT REALLY, REALLY BAD.

CAPTAIN, BREAKFAST.

HOW YOU DOING?

JUST FINE.

HMM...

WHERE IS HE ANYWAY?

NAH.

YOU'RE NOT.

KOFF!

I'M DOING A LOT BET—

UDOU... I MEAN, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR WAS UP ALL NIGHT BREWING ME UP SOME MEDICINE.

...HE USED TO BE A RESEARCHER AT HELL'S GATE.

HA HA.

I GET IT. JUST GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM!

MUST BE 'COS HE JUMPED IN THE OCEAN IN WINTER.

HE'S IN BED WITH A COLD. HE'S DOING A LOT WORSE THAN ME.

LISTEN UP...THIS PORRIDGE WILL DO.

KOFF!

TAKE THIS AFTER YOU EAT, AND THEN THIS ONE IN FOUR HOURS.

WHEN I ASKED HIM LATER, HE SAID HE'D LET A BUNCH OF KIDS ESCAPE FROM THE LAB IN THE PAST.

...WHILE SUFFERING FROM FROSTBITE AND AFTER BREAKING EVERY BONE IN HIS BODY, ALL TO SAVE ME.

IN THE END, HE FLED TO THIS COUNTRY...

AND THEN WE JOINED THE JACKALOPES SO WE COULD FIGHT BACK AGAINST AMENOTORI.

...GOING TO THE ISLAND REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

...BUT I CAN'T BE LIKE YOU GUYS.

CHARI (JINGLE)

.....I MADE MYSELF A GOOD FAMILY RULE TOO.

AFTER I TOOK IT, IT TURNED ALL BLACK.

.....I RE-MEMBERED SOMETHING ON THE ISLAND.

IT'S THE SAME AS THAT NIGHTMARE I ALWAYS HAD.....

ONE OF THE THINGS I'VE BEEN CALLED.

I MIGHT JUST BE SOMETHING EVEN WORSE THAN A SPIDER—

THIS STONE WAS BLUE LIKE THE SEA BEFORE THE PERSON WHO HAD IT BECAME A SPIDER.

A MONSTER.

...HUH?

IT'S TRUE THAT THERE IS SOMETHING OFF-KILTER ABOUT YOU.

WHY DO YOU TRY TO STICK TO YOUR FAMILY RULES?

—THAT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER.

OLD MAN KAKUJOU... MY LATE FOSTER DAD...

...SAID I COULD BE A NORMAL PERSON IF I FOLLOWED THE RULES.

...DO YOU STILL DOUBT YOURSELF EVEN THOUGH YOU FOLLOW THEM?

THEN WHY...

...NOT THE AMAZING PERSON YOU AND UDOU MAKE ME OUT TO BE.

...I'M...

.....

I DON'T KNOW.

...AND IT SHOWED IN MY EYES...

BACK THEN, I WAS USED TO FEAR AND PAIN, EVEN READY FOR MY EVENTUAL DEATH...

EYES THAT HELD TRUE DARKNESS.

I THINK THAT EMPTINESS IS THE TRUE MONSTER...

...THAT'S WHAT DREW UDOU'S ATTENTION.

...THEN WHEN I SUDDENLY GOT SCARED, STARTED CRYING, AND STRUGGLED...

EVEN IF YOU THINK ABOUT THINGS AND CAN'T COME UP WITH AN ANSWER...

...DON'T JUST SETTLE FOR *"I DON'T KNOW."*

DON'T STOP WORRYING AND THINKING ABOUT IT.

SOMETIMES, THE CHAOS OF ALL THE COLORS MIXED TOGETHER CAN LOOK LIKE "BLACK."

SCRATCH AND CLAW AND DECIDE WHAT YOUR OWN COLOR IS FOR YOURSELF.

HEYYY!

—MY OWN COLOR ...

GU (CLENCH)

YOU IDIOT!! I'M ON PATROL HERE TODAY!

HEE-HEE! THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO SLACK OFFFFF.

YOU SLACKING OFF AGAIN, PEE-PANTS JIMO?

DOSHAN (CRASH)

PIGIGI (CRACKLE)

OH.

DAMMIT. THAT MESSED UP MY HORN.

PIGI

YOU GUYS?

I BET IT'S BECAUSE YOU NEVER USE IT.

WE'LL FIX IT UP FOR YOU.

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US!

I'M ALREADY TWELVE, YOU KNOW!

I'M NOT SOME LITTLE KID WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

...JUST A KID, DUMBASS.

...TWELVE IS STILL...

CAPTAIN KUKURI, I'M COMING IN.

KOFF!

SNIFF!

KFF!

KON

KON (KNOCK)

KOFF!

!?

SHE WENT OUT IN THAT CONDITION ...!?

THAT TOMBOY ...!

DOSA (THUD)

HAAH.

WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT... THAT...

...IT HAS TO BE RELATED.

IN THAT CASE, WHAT IF...?

SO THAT WASN'T THE SAME LORD THAT'S BEEN TERRORIZING US.

...WASN'T JUST A NORMAL SPIDER...

...BUT IT ALSO DIDN'T EVEN COMPARE TO THE SIZE OF THE LORD'S FOOTPRINTS.

.....

"SLEEP."

"A MYSTERIOUS MAN."

"MEDICINE."

WHAT IF...?

...I AM GIN KUKURI, CAPTAIN OF THE NORTH.

THIS LAND I SEE IS MY VERY LIFE.

.....IF THIS "LORD" WISHES TO TERRORIZE THIS LAND...

...THEN I WILL ABSOLUTELY KILL IT...

.....

ZAZA (RUSTLE)

MM...? THE FOREST...

...IS GETTING NOISY...?

ZAZA (RSTL)

ZAWA (SHUFFA)

ZA

ZA

HUH?

RH...! DAMMIT... GIMME MY HORN!

HUH?

IT'S STILL NOT PUT BACK TO-GETHER...

HUH? WHAT?

GET THE METAL DOORS SHUT AND EVERYONE HIDE!

DON'T MAKE A SINGLE SOUND!

THERE'S A CLUSTER OF SPIDERS...!!

WHY DID THEY HAVE TO COME OUT HERE TO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!?

USE THE COMM LINE TO CALL BOLD BOLT FOR HELP!

GAKO (KA-THUNK)

G-GOT IT.

GACHAN (CLATTER)

DAMMIT...

...RIGHT...?

WE'LL BE OKAY...

—I'VE ALWAYS RUN AWAY FROM THEM BEFORE...

.....OF COURSE.

THAT'S HOW WE MANAGE.

GATA (TREMBLE) GATA

THIS PLACE IS FULL OF IDIOTS WHO AREN'T EVEN SLIGHTLY SCARED OF SPIDERS.

SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME MANAGES TO MAKE IT HAPPEN...!

WHERE'S CAPTAIN KUKURI?

RR..

WHO KNOWS?

RRRR

ZU!
(THMP)

ZAWA
(MURMUR)

.....
.....

ZAWA

What's that noise I've been hearing...?

Pi

GAPA (POP)

R R R

JIII (BZZ) BIRORORO (WHIRR)

!

IT'S DOC'S ANALYSIS OF THE LORD.

The Lord...

...attracts Spiders to it...?

GRRR.

AAA AH!

GO (WHAM)

BEKIN (CRACK)

RR RR...

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMD

KIN3

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

PAR

ADE

#28

ZIYU.

MOM'S... NOT AROUND ANYMORE.

4000

WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US BROTHERS...?

DAD HITS US, AND MOM WENT BACK TO HER HOMETOWN.

...YEAH.

HA-HA.

BUT I REALLY LIKE YOU, JIMO.

YOUR FACE IS ALL MEAN, BUT YOU'RE REALLY NICE.

...WHO CARES?

NO ONE ACTUALLY LIKES KIDS ANYWAY.

SHUT UP, DUMMY.

I HATE THEM.

I HATE KIDS.

#28
REFORM



GO (THUD)

BARI (RIP)

DOSUN (WHUMP)

GARI (CRUNCH)

GOOD JOB. GOOD JOB.

ZURU (TEAR)

RRR RIP!

BACHIN (SNAP)

!!

EEK!

DAMN ...

NOT YET...

TCH...! HAVE WE HEARD BACK FROM BOLD BOLT?

DID THEY CUT THE POWER LINES!?

WAAAH!

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE, THEN—

IT—

I-I-IT'S ALL RIGHT!

WE HAVE CANDLES!

UGH.

...I AM GOOD AT RUNNING AWAY, THOUGH.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY SPIDERS HERE...!?

JUST ONE IS TOO MANY.

ZUKI (TWINGE)

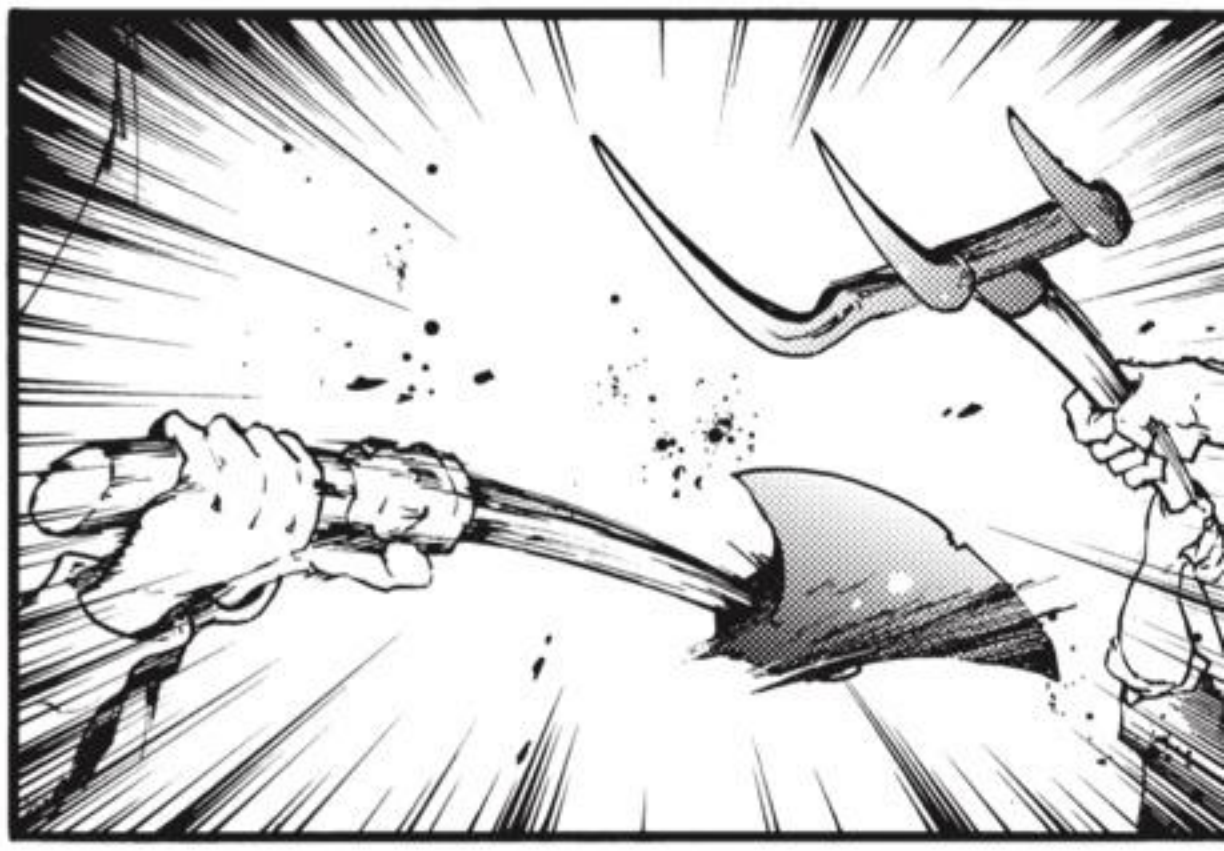
DON (BUMP)

...!

SOR...

KYAA!

WAHA




...RY.
GA
(GRAB)


...!
GATA
(SHAKE)

HELP...!
ON

GAN (THWACK)

YOU BASTARD!

YOU ALL RIGHT, SHIITA!?

BAN (THUD)

ZAKU (STAB)

KEEP SENDING OUT THE SIGNAL.

MARCO! NAZUNA, BELLA, COME OVER HERE!

LET'S PASS OUT TOOLS TO EVERYONE!

WE COULD TRY PROTECTING OURSELVES WITH THE BURNER PART, THOUGH.

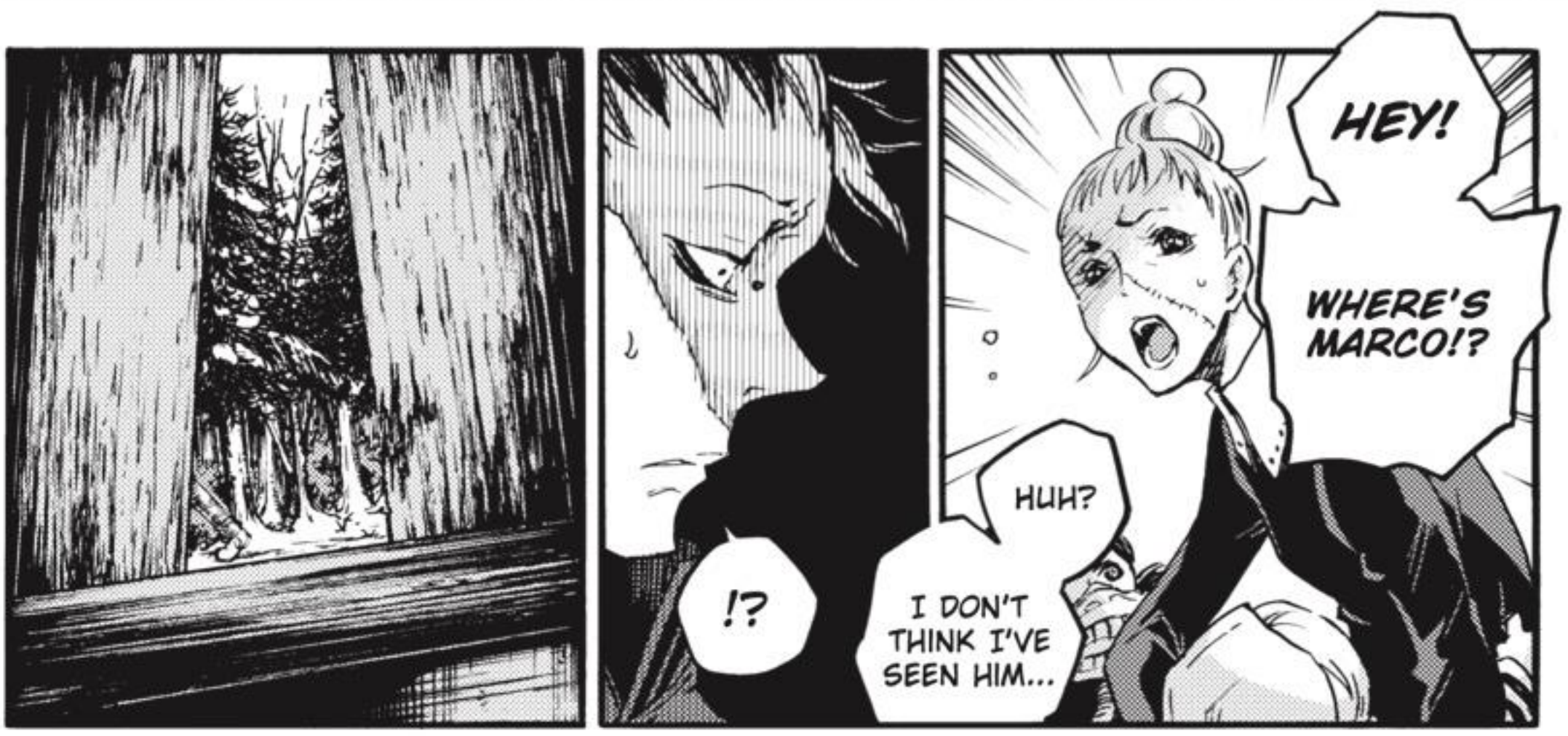
WHAT ABOUT THE GAS?

THAT'LL BURN BOTH US AND THE DOME TOO!

THEY'RE ON THE ROOF!

WE'VE GOTTA GATHER SOME BOARDS AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.




!?
I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN HIM...
HUH?
WHERE'S MARCO!?
HEY!



BAN
(WHAM)

!?

WHAT IS IT, JIMO?

BROTHER JIMO?

HAAH...

WHY DO I ALWAYS GET STUCK PATROLLING AROUND THE ORPHANAGE?

HUH?

YOU LEAD THE ORPHANS HERE.

AND YOU DELIBERATELY SET THINGS UP SO THE ONES WHO WASH ASHORE HERE WILL BE FOUND. IT SEEMS LIKE A WASTE, THOUGH.

—BECAUSE YOU LIKE KIDS, DON'T YOU?

BUT YOU'RE JUST A BIT OFF.

DAMN, YOU FIGURED THAT OUT?

HEH HEH.

I KEEP AN EYE ON THE KIDS...

...BECAUSE I HATE THEM.

...IS IT TRULY THE CHILDREN WHOM YOU HATE?

HUH?

—WHAT I HATE...

GACHA CRASH

...HUH?

...MAKE SURE YOU CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND ME.

KA CLAK

JIMO-NIICHAN !?

ZA

GRE

EE!

GUA (LUNGE)

EE...

THE LEFT ARM THAT THE SPIDER GOT— THAT'S GOING TO BE USELESS.

IT'S ROTTEN, AFTER ALL...I'M NOT EVEN SURE I CAN FIT IT WITH A GEAR.

—BUT YOU KNOW...

...YOUR SMASHED KNEES WERE TREATABLE.

WHY DID YOU BREAK THEM YOURSELF JUST TO GET GEARS?

.....

...!?

THOSE INJURIES WERE SELF-INFLICTED...?

...BECAUSE...

...I HATE MY KNEES.

I RAN AND LAUGHED WHILE MY KNEES KEPT SHAKING.

THEY'RE SUCH STUPID KNEES!

I LEFT ZIYU BEHIND AND RAN.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT. IT'S MY KNEES' FAULT!!

GAH HA HA HA HA HA! I HATE THEM SOOO MUCH, SO I SMASHED THEM!

HEH-HEH... SO HURRY UP.

HURRY UP AND JUST GIVE ME NEW ONES...

UGH...

THEY'RE SHAKING AGAIN...

YOU STUPID PIECES OF JUNK...!!

!!

MARCO!!

BUSHU (FSSSHHH)

BAWK!?

K-LA

GASHU (SHUNK)

KAW!?

BAWK!

...SORRY...

...FOR TAKING SO LONG.

...THERE'S STILL MORE MONSTERS OUT THERE.

HOLD ON TIGHT.

.....

JIMOOO!

WAAAH!

WAAAH!

...AND IT'S WARM HERE...

...SO NO MORE SHIVERING...

GASA (RUSTLE)

!

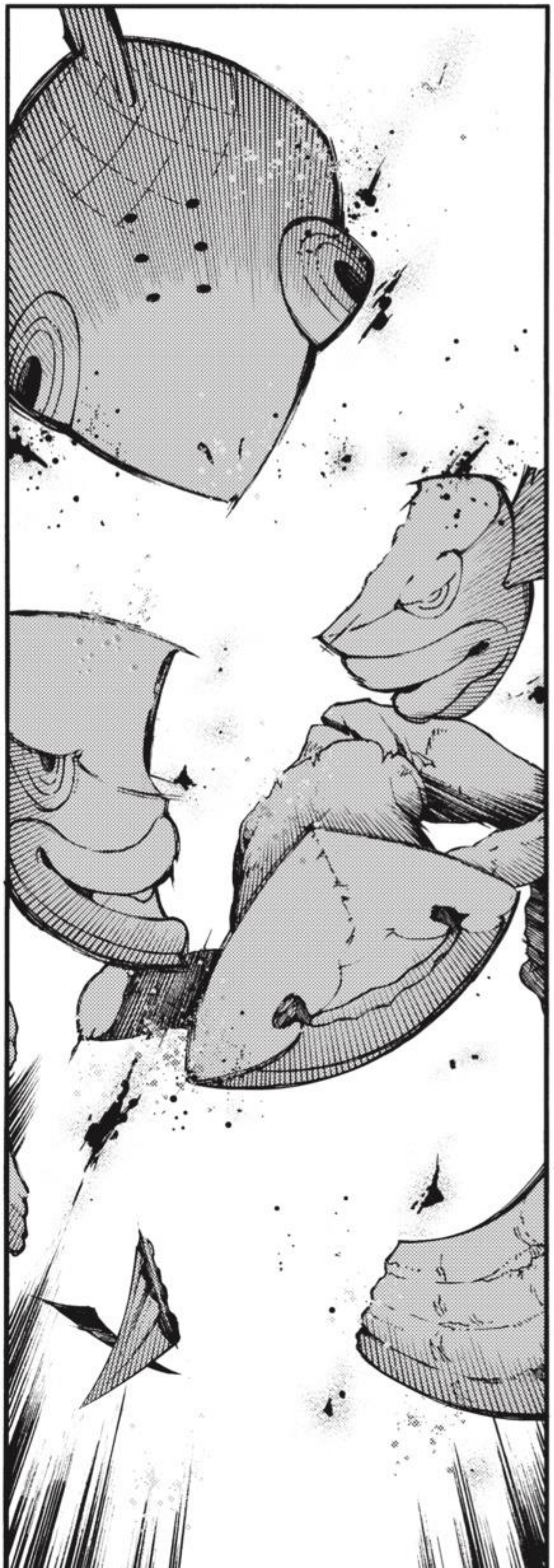
GA (GRRKK)

ZUBUBU (STAB)

I HAVE MARCO, SO I CAN'T USE ANY POISONOUS STEAM...

...BUT I'LL DEFINITELY PROTECT MY BACK...!

...!!



YOUR EXPRESSION IS SO DIFFERENT, I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE.

...

...HEH HEH.

IT'S YOU, JIMO.

...OH.

CAN YOU HELP ME PROTECT THE DOME UNTIL THE OTHERS COME?

OF COURSE.

HARU-CHAN, FOR SOME REASON THE SPIDERS ARE GATHERING AROUND HERE.

REALLY!?

OH GOOD.

...THEY SAVED MARCO.

LOOKS LIKE...

YEAH...

BUT AREN'T HIS GEARS SUPER-WEAK?

THEY'RE ALWAYS MAKING FUN OF HIM.

.....

JIMO-NIICHAN'S SO COOL.

...THAT'S WHY HE'S THE COOLEST.

BAD NEWS!

THE DOME'S IN TROUBLE! MAJOR TROUBLE!!

I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD WE WEREN'T FINDING ANY TODAY...

BUT WHY THERE...!?

A LARGE GROUP OF SPIDERS IS GATHERING!?

Huh?

IT'S LIKE SOME-THING...

...IS DRAWING THEM THERE...!?

IT ATTRACTS SPIDERS...!!

MEKI (CRACK)

HAAH!

KOFF!

DAMMIT! WHERE IS IT...?

MEGIGI (CREAK)

OH...

NIGHT...

MEGI (CREAK)

MEGI (CREAK)

NIGHT IS FALLING...!

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN' PARADE #06

BY JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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WOR

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

7

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

SHIKI no RAPE

KRUNCH

KRUNCH

SMOKIN' PARADE

#29

FORGING A PATH

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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The Greatest Treasure

THE NIGHT REVEALS ALL WEAKNESS.

THEN YOU HIDE AND BREAK DOWN IN TEARS.

YOU LOOK FINE DURING THE DAY, BUT YOU'RE STILL COUGHING.

IT'S THE COLOR OF NIGHT.

SOUL AMBER IS SUPPOSED TO SHOW A PERSON'S "TRUE HEART"— AND MINE'S GONE ALL BLACK.

HMMM.

WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR!?

A WHOLE SHIT TON OF SPIDERS ARE GATHERING AROUND THE DOME!

SCRATCH AND CLAW TO DECIDE...

...WHAT YOUR OWN COLOR IS FOR YOURSELF.

BAN (WHAM)

DON (THWACK)

TCH... WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE SPIDERS!?

HYA HA!

THEY HAVING A PARTY OR SOMETHING?

HYU (WHOOSH)

ZASHU (SLASH)

DAMN IT! THEY JUST DON'T STOP...

SPINAL GEAR—

GALGEN!

PI (FLIK)

...NO.

...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE, HARI-CHAN..

DOSASA (THUD)

ANY WEAKNESSES MUST BE STAMPED OUT.

<DAMN.>

<SO YOUR HEAD IS JACKED UP TOO?>

"DECIDE FOR YOUR OWN DAMN SELF WHAT YOUR WEAKNESS IS."

—SINCE I HAVE DECIDED TO BE STRONG LIKE AKUTA-NII...

...I HAVE NO TIME TO BE WEAK...!

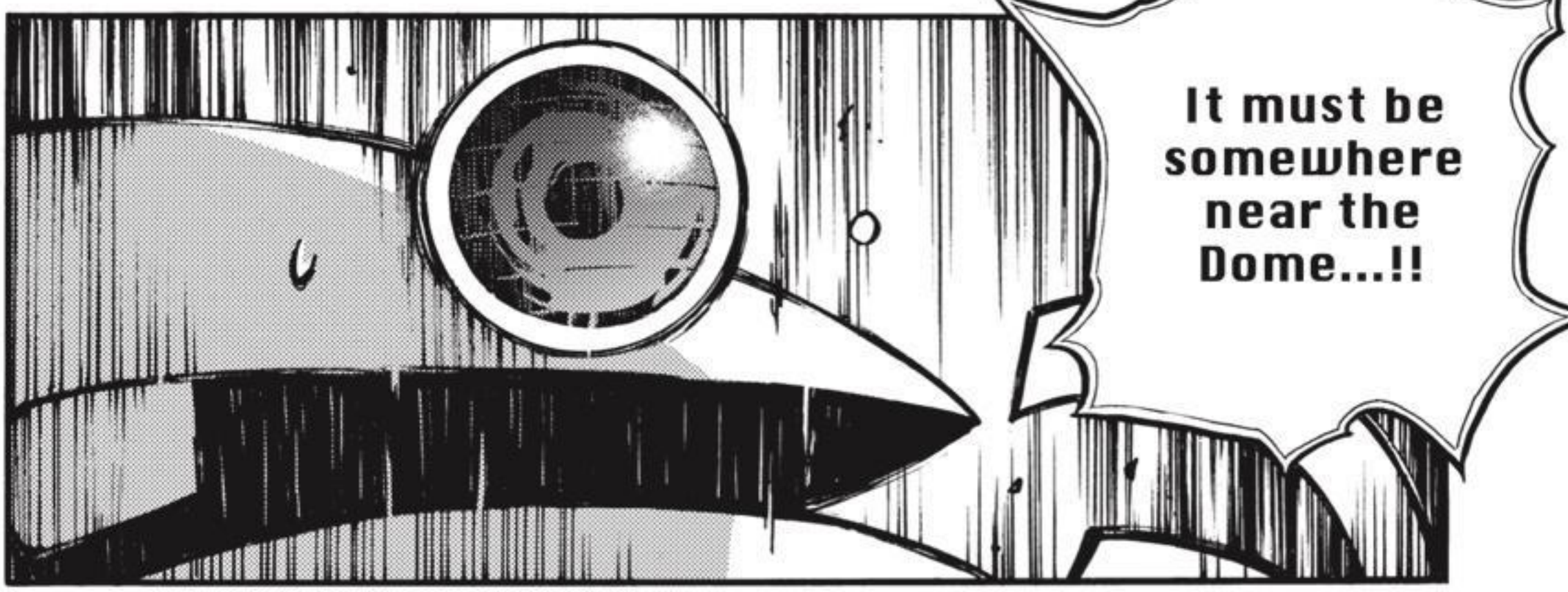
CLICK!

Hey!

If Doc's assessment is right...

...then all these Spiders are being called here.

Th- this is bad!







HYU CWHOOSHD

THE REASON THE NORTHERN BASE IS UNDER MARTIAL LAW AT NIGHT...

BUCHIN (SMASH)

THE SOURCE OF ALL THE SPIDERS SWARMING THE AREA RECENTLY...



DOON (FWOOM)

GASA (RSTLE)

(HSOOHM) HUU



BICHA (SPLAT)

...HUH?

WHY CAN'T I MOVE?

THIS IS...

...SHOULD BE STRONGER THAN THIS...

KIN (CLANG)

I...

...THE NORTHERN NIGHT...

—THIS IS...

...THE LORD.....!!!

IS THIS FEAR?

GATA

GATA (TREMBLE)

IS THIS...?

NO... ACTUALLY... I'M HOLDING MY BREATH.

I CAN'T BREATHE...

I DON'T HEAR ANY SQUIRRELS IN THE TREES...

IF YOU MOVE, YOU'LL DIE...

YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT IDEA, JIMO. JUST STAY OUT COLD, JUST LIKE THAT.

SO YEAH...

SOMEONE JUST DIED.

WHERE THE HELL DID THIS HUGE THING COME FROM ANYWAY?

HAAAH...

HWOO...

ZAN
(STOMP)

THERE REALLY ISN'T ONE!!

THE KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE FOR WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE—

GO (SLAM)

BUT!

BWAH!

THE KIDS AREN'T SAFE WITH THIS THING HERE!

YOU CAN'T HELP BEING SCARED OF THE LORD OF THE NIGHT.

BUT...

...IF YOU JUST STAY SCARED AND DON'T DO ANYTHING...

...YOU CAN'T VERY WELL SMILE LIKE THAT, NOW CAN YOU?

BAKIN (CRACK)

GO (WHAM)

RRR...

GAN (WHACK)

GUSHA (SPLAT)

"BE A MONSTER—THAT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER."

"CHAOS...CAN LOOK LIKE 'BLACK.'"

"DON'T JUST SETTLE FOR 'I DON'T KNOW.'"

WHAT COLOR DO I WANT TO BE...?

MY COLOR...

GA (BAM)

...HEY, STOP!

YOUKOU...!

...WOW...

WAIT, NO... IS HE KEEPING IT DISTRACTED ...?

...IS HE OUT OF HIS MIND?

GO

YOUR GEAR'S ALMOST COMPLETELY BROKEN...

BOSHA (SMACK)

GRR... RAAAH!

GA (STOMP)

...!? IT'S CHANGED DIRECTION...

IT'S HEADING FOR THE SWAMP.

WOW...

I'M NOT BROKEN YET!

I'M GONNA DECIDE MY OWN COLOR FOR MYSELF!!

...HUH?

FIVE POINTS?

...WHY, YOUKOU...?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MESSED UP.

YOU WERE BROKEN FROM THE START.

NOT ME.

DECIDE FOR YOUR OWN DAMN SELF WHAT YOUR WEAKNESS IS.



.....IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'M WEAK.

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN' PARA

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU



It's a fax from the doc.

AH!

IT'S NOT GARBAGE.

...OF THE LORD'S CELL STRUCTURE ...?

...AN ANALYSIS...

563

SMOKIN' PARADE

#30

IS THIS DATA FOR REAL...?

SMOKIN' PARADE

#30

REPAYING ONE'S PARENTS



WHERE'S THE LORD!?

ZUKI (THROB)

OW!

AND MARCO!? WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS...?

HNH!

YOU'RE UP, JIMO!

THEY'RE FINE FOR NOW.

...!?

WHY'S HE LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

GASHAN (CRASH)

GIRA (GLARE)

YOUKOU DREW THE LORD AWAY FROM THE DOME.

WHA—? THAT'S INCREDIBLE.

THE LORD'S TOO TOUGH. IT'S TOO BIG!

IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE!

PORO (DRIP)

IT KEEPS HEALING.

...IT'S NO USE.

...WELL, YEAH, DUH.

OMIGOD, YOUR GEAR'S FALLING APART!

ARE YOUR NERVES SHUT OFF OR SOME-THING?

BATAN (THUMP)

STILL, THIS KID SAVED US...

.....

LET'S WAIT HERE TILL THE LORD LEAVES IN THE MORNING.

WE MADE IT THROUGH WITH MINIMAL LOSSES.

...WAIT.

WE SHOULD ALL...

...TAKE OUT THE LORD RIGHT NOW!

HE'S RIGHT... OTHERWISE, THIS IS JUST GONNA HAPPEN AGAIN AND AGAIN.

I'M SO SICK...OF HAVING TO BE PROTECTED ALL THE TIME.

EXPERIMENTS? SERVICE? ...MONEY?

WE DON'T NEED ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANYONE ELSE DIE...!

AFTER ALL, WE'RE...

...FAMILY, AREN'T WE?

IF BROTHER JIMO AND THE REST OF YOU CAN FIGHT THE SPIDERS, THEN WE CAN TOO...!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?

...YEAH?

BASA (FLAP)

...TRY SAYING THAT AGAIN.

SAY IT TO THE BODY OF SOMEONE WHO HAD THEIR GUTS RIPPED OUT FIGHTING FOR THEIR FAMILY... DRIVING OFF THE BEASTS.

"WE'RE A BUNCH OF KIDS, BUT IF WE WORK REAL HARD AND PUT OUR HEARTS INTO IT, WE CAN BEAT THE LORD." SAY IT!

...!

IS SHE STILL OUT OF IT...?

HAVE WE GOTTEN ANY ORDERS FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR YET?

OR THE CAPTAIN?

GRH!

...NH.

NN.

...I WILL...

...PROTECT YOU.

BASA (FLAP)

...KNOW WHAT THE LORD'S WEAKNESS IS!

LISTEN! ACTUALLY, WE...

ZAWA (MURMUR)

!?

THAT MEANS THE PIGMENT OF THE ANTENNA CHLOROPHYLL WILL BASICALLY ACT IN REVERSE.

BUT IT SAYS THAT WHEN EXPOSED TO AMO AT AN ORDINARY PRESSURE, THE SOTINOL'S STRUCTURE WILL CHANGE, AND ITS ACTIVE CYCLE WILL BECOME INCREDIBLY UNSTABLE AND BEGIN TO DECLINE.

SEE? HERE.

THE LORD REACTS TO LIGHT IN DARKNESS AT TEMPERATURES OF TEN DEGREES CELSIUS AND BELOW.

?

?

HUH?

Wha?

That's not written in there...

<Hello!>

<London Calling!>

<Rock 'n' roll!!>

KYA!

OMI-KUN, YOU SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE!? THAT'S SOOOOOO COOL!♡

...??

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

...?

THAT'S WHY IT NEVER SEEMS TO BE AROUND IN THE MORNING.

ACCORDING TO THESE CALCULATIONS, OVER EIGHTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF ITS CELLS ARE DISASSEMBLED EVERY DAY.

ITS SURFACE AREA GETS WAY SMALLER.

JUST CALM DOWN. HERE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT COMPLICATED STUFF.

KACHA (CLINK)

WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT...?

A KID'S JOB IS TO BE PROTECTED BY GROWN-UPS AND FOCUS ON THEIR OWN DREAMS, RIGHT?

.....

GASHA (SMASH)

!

...DON'T PATRONIZE ME!

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO ARE DREAMING!

DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER FOR THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO JUST GRIN AND BEAR IT!!?

...THEN GO FIND YOURSELF SOME DOLLS!

IF YOU WANT US TO STAY LITTLE KIDS FOREVER...

IT PISSES ME OFF...

ALWAYS GETTING HURT...

YOU'RE ALWAYS JUST OUT OF REACH.

SO WHY DON'T YOU GET IT? WE KIDS ARE THE SAME.

FAMILY'S SUPPOSED TO BE EQUAL, RIGHT?

...AND HAVING TO JUST WATCH YOU WALK AWAY.

I'M SICK OF SEEING YOU GET HURT...

WE WANNA PROTECT OUR FAMILY TOO.

WE'VE STUDIED UP WAY MORE THAN YOU HAVE.

STOP... IGNORING US!

...NO.

THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANT TO SAY.

WE'RE KIDS, BUT...

WE'RE KIDS, SO...

...JUST...

...LOOK AT US...

—DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LORD?

TELL ME.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

...WE DRIVE IT TO THIS PART OF THE MAP.

THIS BAY, WHAT THEY CALL THE "EASTERN JEWEL WALL."

THE LORD BASICALLY NATURALLY REGENERATES EVERY NIGHT...

...SO WE HAVE TO STOP THE CYCLE.

.....

UH?

YEAH.

.....

UM.

WELL, FIRST...

IT'S GONNA BE ROUGH WITHOUT THE EXTRA MANPOWER THE CAPTAIN AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR WOULD GIVE US...

HMMM. I SEE...

BUT WE CAN'T AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF TOTAL DEFEAT EITHER.

OKAY. I DON'T GET IT AT ALL.

TOTALLY CLUELESS!

...WE HAVE THE MUSCLE.

!

WE CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE GET AWAY.

POSU (PLOP)

PACHIN (SNAP)

YOU GUYS WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THIS OPERATION.

BOLD BOLT BELIEVES IN ITS FAMILY.

OUR BONDS ARE HARD AS ICE, INDIVIDUAL SNOWFLAKES ALL PACKED INTO ONE SOLID MASS.

SNIFF

CRYING JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE'S FINALLY PAYING ATTENTION TO YOU...

...PROVES YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID.

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ADULTS.

OKAY!

.....YEAH!

TONIGHT...

...WE'LL PUT AN END TO THIS DARKNESS!

VRRR

WE SHOULD HEAD NORTH NOW TOO.

I'VE FIGURED OUT WHY THAT TOUGH LOT UP NORTH HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE LORD YET.

NAH.

THIS IS PARTLY MY FAULT FOR NOT NOTICING IT EARLIER.

WHY ARE YOU GOING UP THERE IN PERSON, THOUGH?

ARE YOU SLACKING OFF ON YOUR NORMAL DUTIES?

I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A JUDAS AT THE NORTHERN BASE.

Well, this is an interesting drug sample we have here...

IT'S MEANT TO SUPPRESS THE MUTATION OF THE DNA THAT OCCURS IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A SPIDER.

HE DID WELL TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

—RIGHT.

THIS MEDICINE WAS DEVELOPED BASED ON RESEARCH FROM HELL'S GATE 901.

I'D LOVE TO RECRUIT THIS GUY.

WHERE IS HE?

Лавров Ивон

The International Conference on the Situa
meeting of states scheduled to occur in Montevideo,
for the purpose of forming an international contact group re
presidential crisis. It is being jointly sponso
According to reports, participating st
the United Kingdo

ZARA (RATTLE)

THIS...

...UDOU LAVROV.

PAKI (CRACK)

TIME TO CARRY OUT OUR PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF THE LORD!

"WE ARE LIKE SNOWFLAKES, EACH WITH A DIFFERENT FORM, BUT OUR SPIRITS DO NOT MELT, AND OUR CONVICTION WILL NOT WAVER.

"RED SNOW SPREADS AROUND US.

"WE ARE BOLD BOLT! WE WILL DRILL THROUGH BOTH THE LAND AND OUR ENEMIES!"

LET'S GO.

SMD

KIN³

PAR

ADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD,

THE PARADE WILL STA

JINSEI KATAOKA

KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

#31

AN ASTONISHING CLIMAX

"IT'S ALL-OUT WAR WITH THE LORD.

"THE PLAN WE CAME UP WITH IS—"

...I DON'T LIKE THIS.

WHAT, YOU WANNA BAIL?

HEH HEH!

...IT REALLY IS HUGE!!

I REALLY DO.

BUT...

...SO NO MORE SHINING...

BROTHER JIMO!

...I CAN'T DO THAT...!

BO (BWOOF)

GRK!

TEAM A WILL THROW IT OFF-BALANCE WITH A SURPRISE ATTACK.

DON (BOOM)

.....ME NEITHER.

I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO REALLY LET LOOSE LATELY!

GAGAN (KABLAM)

!RR

RRG

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DO MUCH TO GET IT ON THE DEFENSIVE.

IF IT DOESN'T WANT TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN THE SWAMPLAND...

BIKIN (CRACK)

...THEN ITS INSTINCTS SHOULD TAKE IT TOWARD A LOW, FLAT PLACE.

TEAM A WAS SUCCESS-FUL.

NO LOST TIME.

THE LORD IS HEADED FOR POINT B IN THE VALLEY.

RETREAT!

RETREAT!

ALL RIGHT! IT'S ON THE MOVE.

ZUZU (SLIDE)

WE'LL HAVE A COMMS TEAM ALONG THE EXPECTED ROUTE AND HAVE A STRIKE TEAM READY TO CHASE IT IF NECESSARY.

THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING...

IT'S MOVING EXACTLY AS THE KIDS SAID IT WOULD.

ZLIN GTHOOM

Let's hurry to our assigned positions.

HMM.

SMART...

...HUH?

It really is incredible.

It only came together at the last minute, but those kids are pretty smart.

BETTER THAN MY A.I.

16

GYA

GYA (SKREEE)

ZUZUN (THUDD)

POINT B REPORTING INNN!

WE DID OUR BEST BEAVER IMITATION TO DAM UP THE PATH!

Point C

AFTER ALL!

WE NEED TO GET RID OF THIS LORD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! FOR MY OMI-KUN!♡

THAT'S WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY, HONEY!!

OR SOMETHING LIKE IT ANYWAY!!

HWA HA!

THEY SAY THAT.

BUT THIS WHOLE PLAN WAS IMPROVISED ON THE SPOT...

WE JUST NEED TO GUIDE THE LORD TO THE PLACE THAT WILL GIVE US THE BEST CHANCE OF EXPLOITING ITS WEAKNESS.

THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME LOSSES.

OVER HERE!

GA (THWACK)

HYU (FWOOSH)

RR!

OVER HERE, MR. LORD!

IT'S MOVING!!

ZUN (STOMP)

HIDE-AND-SEEK IS SO FUN!♡

BUN
(FLING)

GA
(SNAG)

WATCH OUT, MII!

BA
(LUNGE)

AH!

LOOK OUT, OMI!

OH.

"I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LOST AN ARM SAVING A STRAY CAT."

"SERIOUSLY, IS THIS KID REALLY THAT STUPID?"

PFFT!

GUSHA (CRUNCH)

The Lord is moving right on time, though.

I haven't heard anything from Point B.

Point C

The lord's reached Point C!!

TIMING IS THE KEY TO THIS PLAN.

THE MAIN GOAL HERE IS TO KILL SOME TIME.

ZA (SKSH)

SO BASICALLY...

THE KIDS WILL MARK OFF THE AREA WITH ROPES.

...WE'VE JUST GOTTA BATTLE!

...EVERYONE'S REALLY AMAZING.

IS IT THAT THEY'RE SMART?

THAT'S NOT IT EITHER... I THINK...

GA (WHACK)

!!

EVERYONE'S STRONG, OF COURSE... BUT THAT'S NOT IT.

—THEY'RE ALL FIGHTING WITH THIS FRANTIC DESPERATION...

THEY JUST WANT EVERYONE TO BE ABLE TO SMILE.

—IF THAT'S WHAT STRENGTH IS...

—ALL RIGHT. THAT'S TIME!

IT'S UP TO YOU, TEAM D!

...THEN WE CAN DEFINITELY TAKE DOWN THE LORD...!!

ZA (SKSH)

LEAVE IT TO US!

POINT D

TIME REMAINING: 00:34:25

I'M PRETTY SURE EVERYONE HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING THEIR ATTACKS ON ITS LEGS SO FAR.

IT DOES SEEM TO BE PUTTING UP LESS RESISTANCE...

CAN WE ASK YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THE LAST PART OF THE PLAN, MR. MAMA?

DODODO (SHOVE)

eventually included 72 African
vlag at 900 stations in the
ates and the territory

Point D

YOU NEED TO DRIVE THE LORD INTO THE GOAL AT THE EASTERN JEWEL WALL.

GOAL
EASTERN JEWEL WALL

OOO (LOOM)

...BUT THAT'S STILL A BIG ASK...!

BIKU (FLINCH)

EEP!

HEY!

YOU BRATS STAY OUT OF THERE!

OH...

.....

...LOOK, UH...

EEK!

HE'S SCARY...

YOU MUSTN'T WANDER OVER THERE...

...MMKAY?

PFF!

IT'S DANGEROUS OVER THERE... 'KAY!!?

SHUT UP... MMKAY!?

PFFT!

!?

PFFT!

DON (WHAM)

GEEZ!

THEY'RE SUCH TROUBLE-SOME LITTLE ANGELS!

BIKIN (CRACK)

PEOPLE SAY CENTIPEDES CAN NEVER GO BACKWARD.

SO WHEN I GOT HURT, I TOOK THAT NOTION AND WEAPONIZED IT IN MY GEAR.

BUT NOW THE REASON I CAN'T GO BACK...

CHEST GEAR—

COSTA BALLISTA!

DON
(THWOOM)

...IS BECAUSE I HAVE PEOPLE TO PROTECT STANDING BEHIND ME!!

ALL RIGHT! IT'S IN THE AIR!

IT'S FALLING TOWARD THE GOAL.

RIGHT ON TIME...

GASHIN (GASHNK)

!!

RH!

THIS IS BAD...!

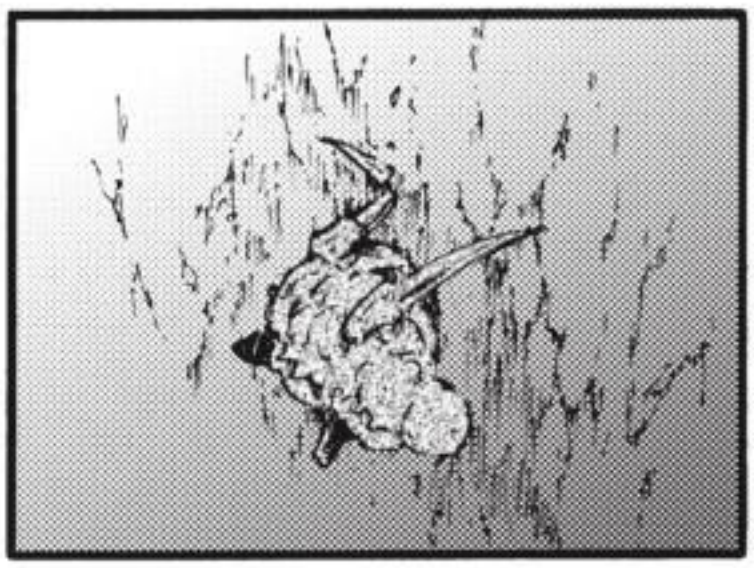
00:01:28

IF IT CLIMBS UP NOW...!

DORURU (VROOM)

ドドド


...THEY'RE THE ONES WHO PROTECTED US...?





GOAL

THE GOAL IS THE EASTERN JEWEL WALL.

THE LOCALS CALL IT A NATURAL LIGHTHOUSE. IT'S A BAY OF ICE THAT CATCHES THE SUN'S LIGHT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AND STAYS BRIGHT ALL DAY LONG.

THE LORD'S WEAKNESS IS SIMPLE—

IT'S SUNLIGHT.

SO THE PLAN IS SIMPLE TOO.

WE LURE IT TO A PARABOLIC REFLECTOR THAT WILL FOCUS THE LIGHT RIGHT AT THE MOMENT THE SUN FIRST RISES—

THE LORD WON'T BE ABLE TO REGENERATE...

...AND IT WILL SHED THE ENLARGED BODY THAT IT DEVELOPS DURING THE NIGHT.

IF WE SUCCEED, THEN THEORETICALLY...

BOKO

BOKOKO (GLOOP)

RREEE

EE...

...IT SHOULD BECOME EVEN LESS THAN A TYPICAL SPIDER.

NOW!

...I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D HAVE THE CHANCE...

...TO GET REVENGE FOR OUR FRIENDS...!

IT REALLY WORKED...

The Lord got smaller.

NOW WE CAN DEAL THE FINAL BLOW!!

OUR NIGHT WILL FINALLY END!

ZAZA (SKID)

IF WE KILL THE LORD, IT'S ALL OVER!!

THIS IS IT...!

LEFT ARM GEAR—

"THE FIST"!!

!?

I WON'T LET YOU.

PUSHU (PRICK)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR UDOU...?

BUT WHY...?

HUH?

THIS...

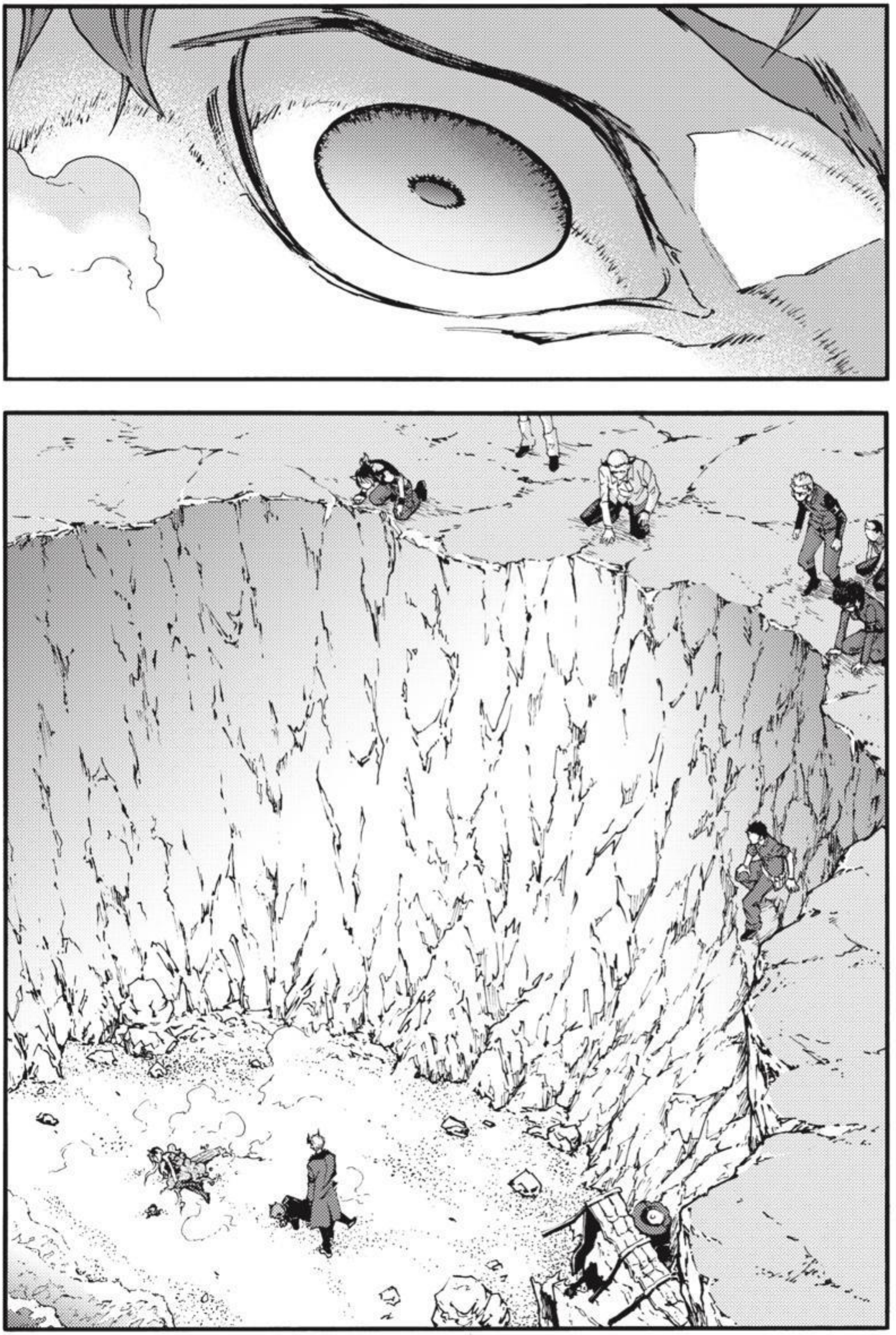
... HAPPENED BEFORE.

KURA (WOBBLE)

...?

...?

DORO (GLOOP)





THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JUNSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

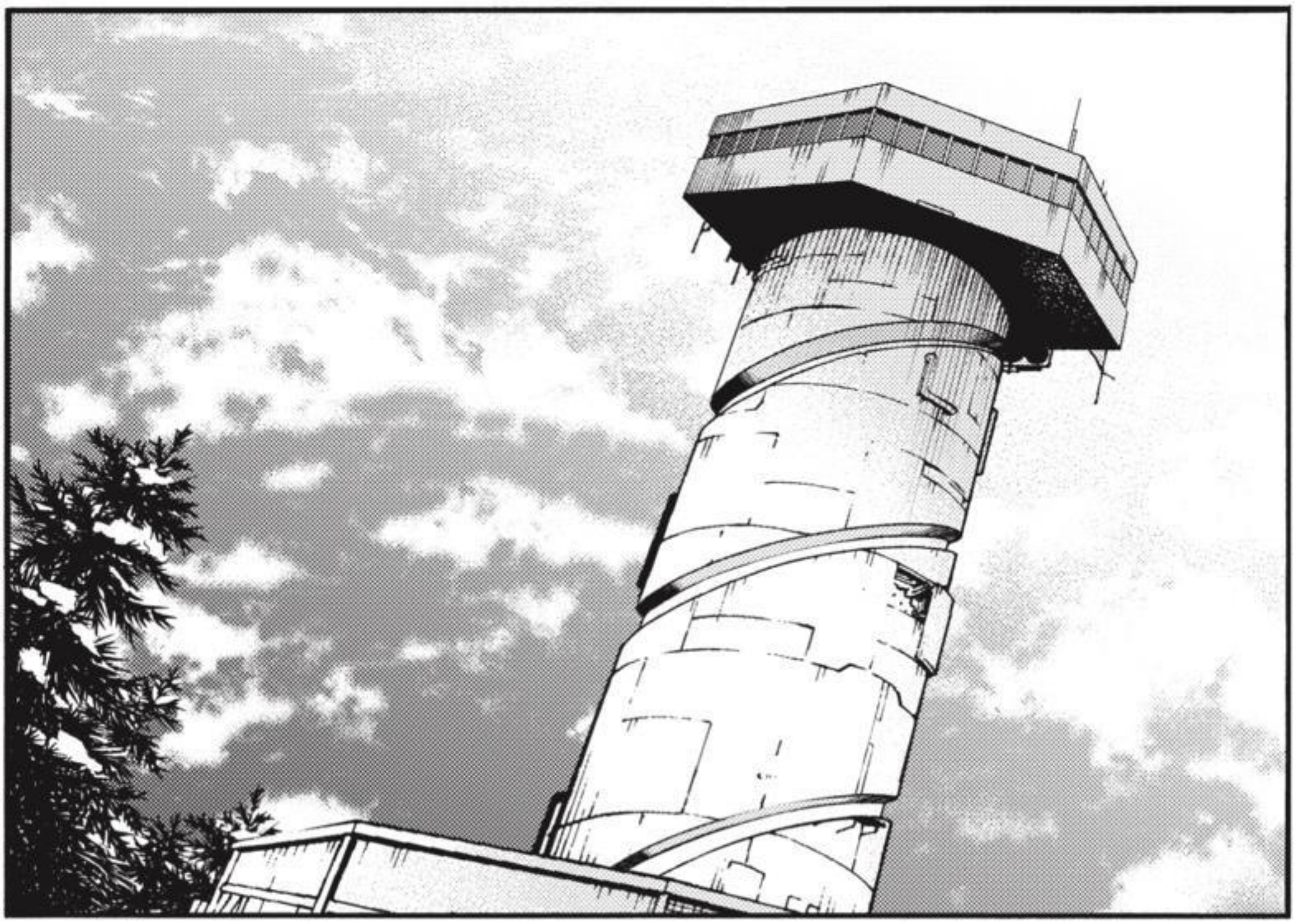
SMOKIN' PARADE

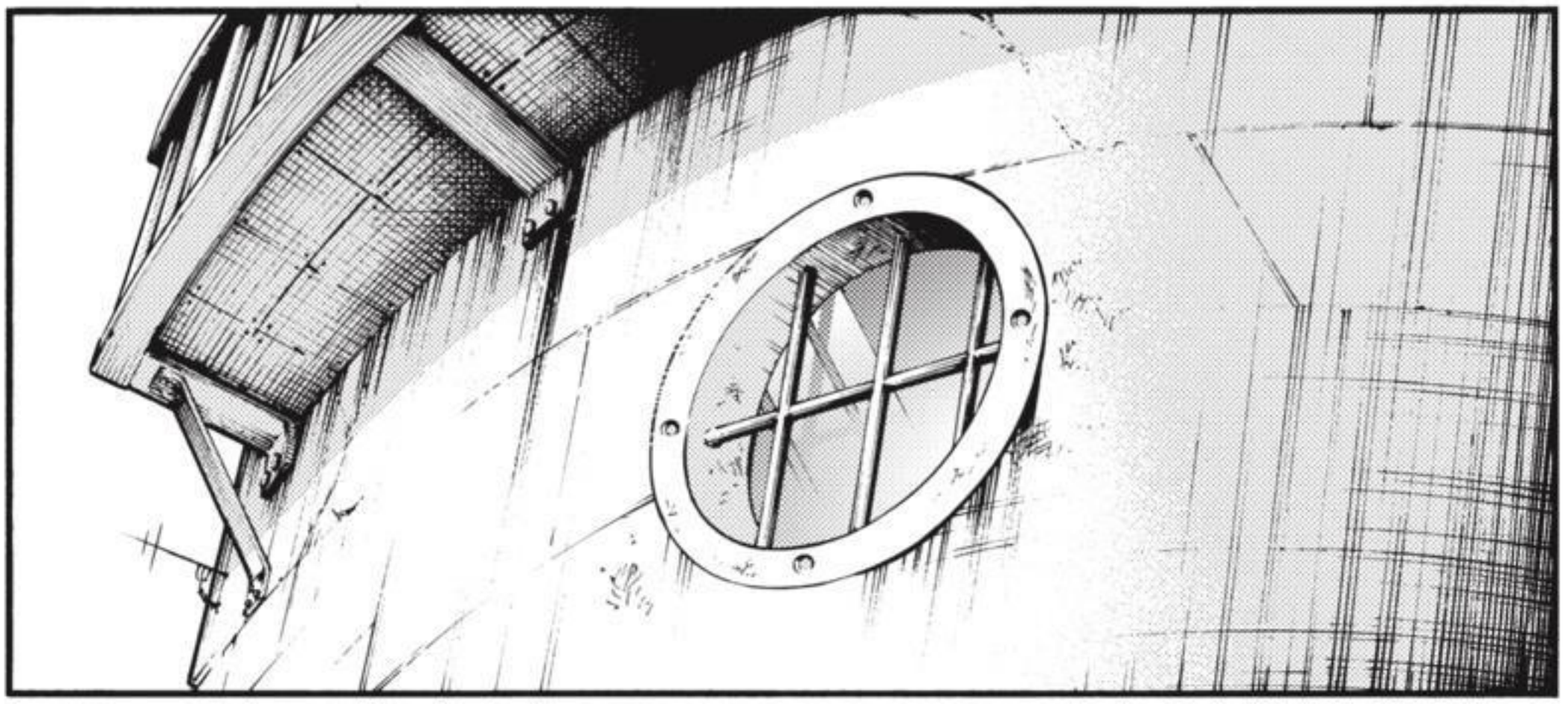


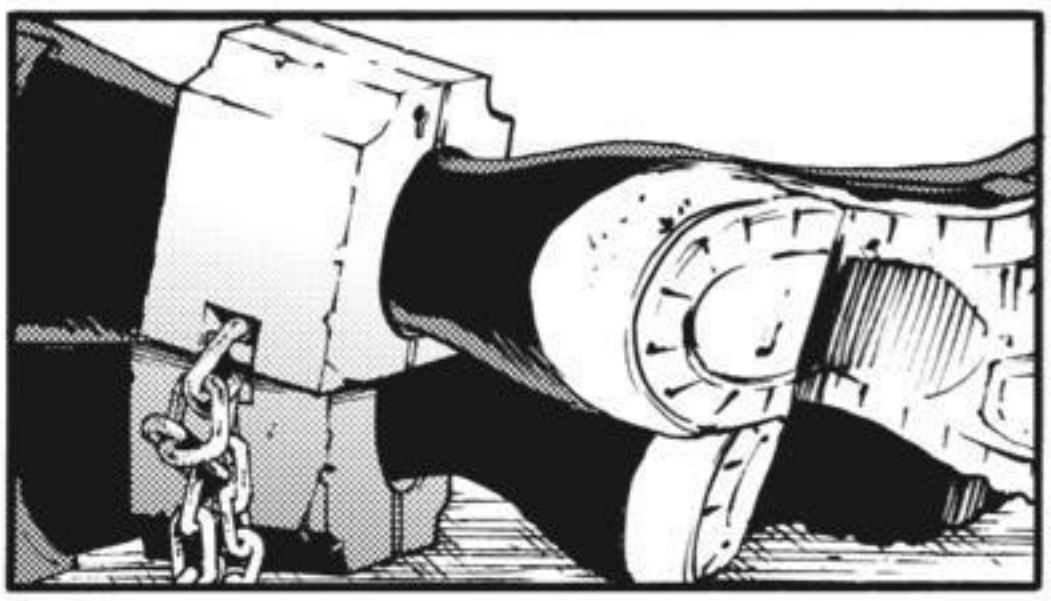
SMOKIN' PARADE

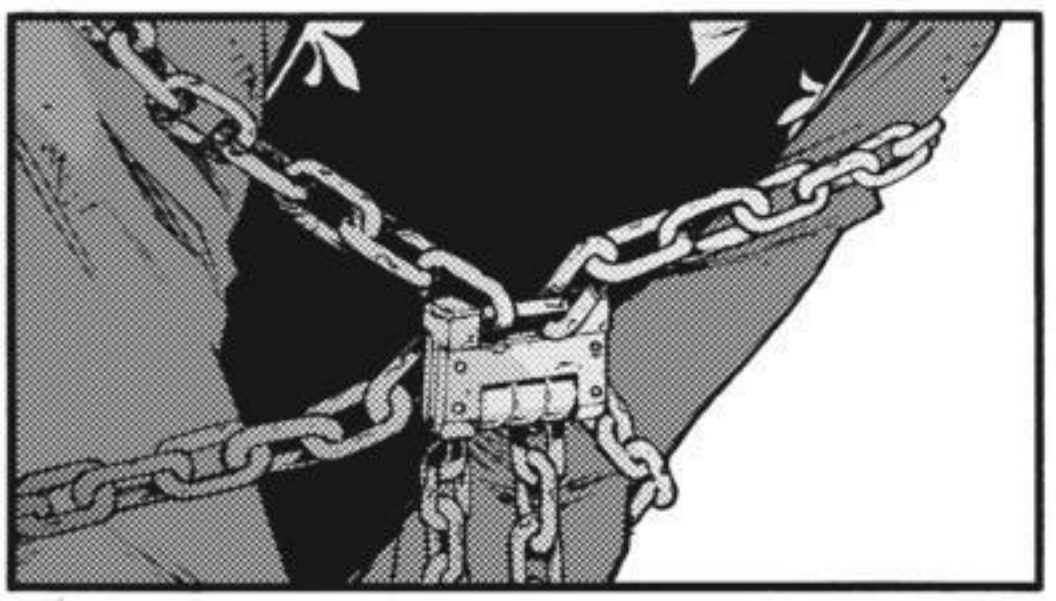
#32

ONCE BROKEN, NEVER RESTORED









がばっ
GABA (JUMP)
COLD!?
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.
BASHA (SPLASH)
WHY WAS I EVEN OUT...?
!
REMEMBER NOW?
DEPUTY DIRECTOR...!?
CAPTAIN KUKURI...!?

THEY WERE ABOUT TO RUN...

...SO EVERYONE HAD TO RUSH IN TO DETAIN THEM.

YOU WERE OUT COLD.

HE USED SOME SORT OF POWERFUL SEDATIVE.

PUSHU (PRICK)

...AND NOW THEY'RE IN THERE.

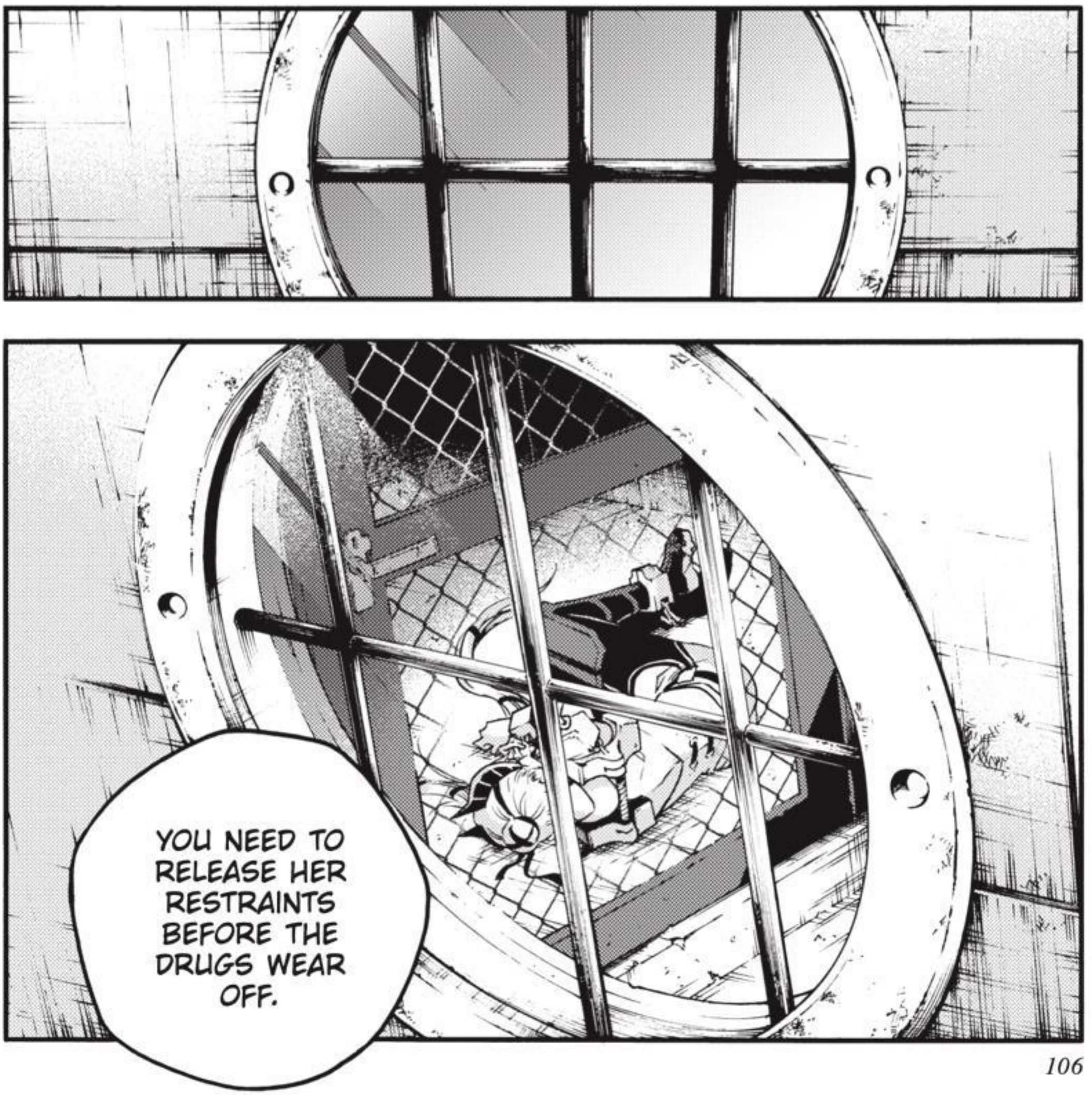
...WAS THAT REALLY...

...CAPTAIN KUKURI...?

.....


.....


NOW...
...SHE IS.


YOU NEED TO RELEASE HER RESTRAINTS BEFORE THE DRUGS WEAR OFF.

SHE...

...IS GIN KUKURI, CAPTAIN OF THE JACKALOPES' NORTHERN BASE.

...AND THE LORD.

MII AND OMI ARE TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF DEATH AS WE SPEAK.

WHY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR— NO, WHY, UDOU?

WHY? AND HOW LONG...

...HAVE YOU BEEN LYING TO US!?

I'VE BEEN LYING FROM THE START.

EVEN NOW...

...SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

...THAT IS WHY SHE IS BEAUTIFUL.

So that's why...

You didn't want the main base interfering.

...WE WEREN'T UNDER MARTIAL LAW AT NIGHT FOR OUR OWN SAFETY.

GIRI CCLENCHD

...AND YOU INSISTED ON MAINTAINING THE SECRETIVE STATUS QUO...

YOU OVERRULED CAPTAIN KUKURI, WHO OPENLY VOICED HER DESIRE TO ACTIVELY GO AFTER THE LORD...

...ALL SO YOU COULD HIDE THE IDENTITY OF THE LORD.

YES.

...THE BURDEN OF TRICKING, DECEIVING, AND LYING TO BOTH HER AND MY TEAM IS MINE TO BEAR.

HER HEART REMAINS BEAUTIFUL LIKE A PRESERVED SPECIMEN. IN ORDER TO PROTECT THAT...

I'M GOOD AT DOING THE DIRTY WORK TOO, YOU BASTARD.

.....

GO (THWACK)

THIS GIRL AGAIN...

HAAH...

NNNH.

THE "LAB RATS" I HAVE TO DEAL WITH ARE CHILDREN WHO'VE BEEN BOUGHT AND SOLD.

I HAVE A DEGREE, BUT THE ONLY JOB I COULD FIND WAS HELPING WITH MEDICAL RESEARCH AT A START-UP.

...BUT FOR SOME REASON THE ONE CRYBABY WHO ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE THE MOST HURT AND AFRAID...

THEY'VE ALL BEEN SOLD INTO THIS BY THEIR PARENTS OR VILLAGES, SO THEY'RE ALL IN THE SAME SITUATION...

...COMES TO TAKE THE MOST PAINFUL SHOTS IN PLACE OF THE OTHERS.

I DON'T MIND IF YOU KEEP GETTING THESE INJECTIONS— THEY'RE JUST MAKING YOUR CELLS STRONGER—BUT STILL...

...

OH!

...UNLESS... DO YOU WANT TO GET STRONGER?

WHAT DOES SHE EXPECT TO GET OUT OF IT?

IS IT THE PYGMALION EFFECT? EXPECTATION SHAPING REALITY?

TRYING TO HELP? PEER PRESSURE?

I'M SORRY.

SO I'M DOING IT.

...NO.

IT'S JUST THAT THEY'RE CRYING. THEY LOOK LIKE THEY REALLY HURT.

IF I LOOK LIKE IT HURTS ME...

...DOES THAT HURT YOU TOO?

...SHOULD START SHOWING SOME CHANGES SOON.

CHILD NUMBER EIGHTY-ONE...

IT'S AN INCREDIBLE ENHANCEMENT.

IF OUR EXPERIMENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL, THEN EVEN NORMAL PEOPLE CAN BECOME CHIMERA LIKE THAT.

SHE'S BEEN RECEIVING THE "NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS," HASN'T SHE? THEY CAUSE DNA MUTATION.

HUH?

HA!

YOU MEAN FROM YOUR DISSERTATION?

THERE'S NO WAY WE'D BOTHER WITH SOMETHING THAT NICE IN AN ISOLATED LAB LIKE THIS ONE!

WHAT ABOUT THE DRUGS WE'RE DEVELOPING TO MITIGATE REJECTION...?

.....

80 - 83

JARA (CLATTER)

DAMN IT...!

...THE MUTATION OF HER DNA...!

...I HAVE TO SUPPRESS...

...!

HEE HEE!

YOU'RE A GROWN-UP, BUT YOU STILL OVERSLEPT!

WELL, IF THIS IS WHAT I GET IN RETURN...

GOOD...

IT'S STOPPED...

YEAH...

IF I GET TO SEE THAT EXPRESSION ON HER FACE FOREVER, THEN I...

I...AM THE ONLY FOOL HERE.

ZLI (SKFF)

...YOU ALL KNOW HER TO BE.

...IS THE AMAZING PERSON...

—SHE...

...I LOVED HER MORE THAN ANYONE, SO I PUT HER THROUGH MORE PAIN THAN ANYONE ELSE.

...I WAS RELIEVED THAT MY CURSED HANDS HAD BEEN CRUSHED.

WHEN WE FLED HELL'S GATE 901...

I REFORMULATED THE MIXTURE OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

BUT HER MUTATION CONTINUED.

I STILL WAS UNABLE TO CREATE A DRUG TO CURE HER.

I COULD ONLY KEEP HER IN HUMAN FORM FOR A MAXIMUM OF FORTY-TWO HOURS.

I TRICKED WHAT DESERTERS REMAINED ON THE ISLAND INTO BECOMING MY TEST SUBJECTS.

I STOLE RESEARCH FROM THE LAB, WHICH HAD BEEN DESTROYED IN THE CIVIL WAR.

...THE MORE MASSIVE AND BRUTAL HER "NIGHT FORM" BECAME.

NOT ONLY COULD I NOT FIX HER, BUT THE MORE I SUPPRESSED HER MUTATION...

BUT THEN A SIDE EFFECT OF HER CONDITION PRESENTED...

...AND HER BODY STARTED CALLING OUT TO CREATURES WITH DNA MUTATIONS SIMILAR TO HER OWN.

GACHAN (CRASH)

!?

THE ONE RELIEF IS THAT SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE'S TRANS-FORMED...

YOU'RE SCOWLING A LOT AGAIN TODAY.

IF WE CAN JUST STAY HIDDEN AND LIVE ON IN PEACE...

THE SPIDERS.

!

ｸﾜｯ KA (TAK)

—HMM.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU JOINED THE JACKALOPES.

TO DEFEAT THE SPIDERS YOUR DEAR GIRL ATTRACTED.

Huh? Doc!?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THIS WITHOUT ME, SO I HURRIED UP.

JUST SENDING FAXES WON'T DO.

IT SEEMS SOME CLEVER LITTLE KIDS WERE THE KEY TO FIGURING OUT THE LORD'S WEAKNESS AND IDENTITY.

GACHA (KACHAK)

KUI (TUG)

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T *EXTERMINATED* HER YET.

...UDOU LAVROV.

—DON'T TOUCH HER.

THIS IS QUITE THE DECEPTION YOU'VE MANAGED.

QE2 was designed for the transatl
UK, to New York, and was named
Queen Elizabeth. She served as
from 1969 until succeeded by
Designed in Cunard's then h
Liverpool and Southampto
Scotland. QE2 was consid
Mary 2 entered service.

Designed in Cunard's
Liverpool and South
Scotland. QE2 wa
Mary 2 entered s

...BUT THEN, THE ONE WITH THE SECRET WAS KUKURI-CHAN.

I TRIPLE-CHECKED YOU, SINCE YOU WERE A FORMER RESEARCHER FOR AMENOTORI...

YOU DID WELL IN FOOLING ME WHEN YOU REQUESTED I PROVIDE YOU WITH GEARS.

HMM...

AND HERE I JUST THOUGHT YOU HATED US.

SO I MADE SURE WE MAINTAINED ONLY THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM LEVEL OF CONTACT WITH THE MAIN BASE.

...I KNEW IF YOU COMPARED HER MAKEUP TO THE LORD'S ALKALINE COMPOSITION, IT WOULD ALL BE OVER.

YOU EVEN DID YOUR OWN MAINTENANCE ON YOUR GEARS...

Click.

KAKI (CLICK)

...!

GOTON (THUNK)

VUI (WHIRR)

I KNEW IT.

AND THIS FINGER HAS A CONCOCTION OF DEADLY POISONS... INCLUDING VERRUCARIN J AND MYOTOXIN.

...TO MAKE ANNOYANCES GO TO SLEEP.

OPIATES AND DEXMEDE-TOMIDINE...

WERE YOU GOING TO TAKE YOURSELF OUT?

YOU'RE A CRAFTY ONE.

DON'T JUST ABANDON REASON.

LOOK HARD.

FAITH AND LUST ARE RATHER SIMILAR, YOU KNOW. ♡

NEITHER ONE IS RATIONAL, AND BOTH MAKE PEOPLE STUPID.

...ONE NEEDS TO BE WILLING TO DIE FOR THEIR BELIEFS.

SHE'S NOT A GODDESS.

DURING THE DAY, SHE KILLS SPIDERS...

...AND AT NIGHT, SHE'S THE MURDERING LORD.

YOU CAN'T TURN HER INTO A PRESERVED SPECIMEN.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE WINGS COMING OUT OF HER BACK. SHE HAS PITCH-BLACK MECHANISMS.

THE LORD IS AN UGLY SPIDER THAT KILLS PEOPLE.

WHAT'S LYING OVER THERE IS AN ABOMINATION, A SLEEPWALKING MONSTER WHO ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF WHAT SHE IS.

THERE'S BLOOD ON HER HANDS.

JU (SIZZLE)

...THEY'RE STILL BEING QUES-TIONED.

...BUT EVEN IF WE CAN GET SOME ANSWERS...

...WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW...?

...WAS COMMITTING HEINOUS ACTS WITHOUT KNOWING IT...

IF THE PERSON YOU LOVED MORE THAN ANYONE...

...WHAT DO WE DO?

...THEN THE ANSWER SHOULD BE SIMPLE.

GAKI (SNAP)

BAGIN (SMASH)

SHE WAS AWAKE...!?

DAMN IT! AFTER HER!!

...CAPTAIN KUKURI GOT OUT...!?

...I GAVE HER SOMETHING TO BREAK DOWN YOUR SEDATIVE.

—OH, I GUESS I FORGOT TO MENTION...

RIGHT AFTER I GOT HERE!

WHA...!?

MYYY! THAT'S A FINE SET OF GEARS!

OHH?

ALL OF IT...!?

...YOU LET HER HEAR THAT?

WHY DID YOU SULLY HER?

SHE...

...KUKURI SHOULD ALWAYS BE SMILING!

WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT...!?

DON (WHAM)

SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!!!

BUT IGNORANCE IS A SIN.

NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE, WE STILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH SPIDERS THE SAME.

—YOUKOU.

YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO TO THEM, DON'T YOU?

ZAWA (SHUDDER)

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

THE GUILTY...

...MUST BE PUNISHED.

SMO KUN3

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

PAR ADE

THAT WAS MY FAMILY.

WHENEVER HE LOOKED AT ME, HE WOULD YELL AND SCREAM.

HE WAS ALWAYS SIGHING LIKE HE WAS IN PAIN.

I ONLY SAW HIM LOOK HAPPY ONCE.

KUKURI.

KUKURI!

THEY SAID THEY WOULD PAY FOR YOU!

...THEN I THINK THE RIGHT MOVE IS FOR ME TO DISAPPEAR.

IF IT WILL MAKE EVERYONE SMILE HAPPILY...



SMOKIN' PARADE

#33

THE GREATEST TREASURE

THERE SHE IS!

RESTRAIN THE CAPTAIN!

—I...

...WANTED A FAMILY I COULD SMILE WITH.

I'M SORRY !!

I KNOW THAT!

THERE'S AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS, CAPTAIN KUKURI.

DON'T TOUCH ME...!

GAKIN
(CRACK)

BUT...

I THOUGHT I WAS PROTECTING THEM.

I THOUGHT I WAS MAKING ONE.

BUT...

...I WAS THE ONE DESTROYING MY FAMILY.

SO MANY MORNINGS, I WOKE UP FEELING UNUSUALLY TIRED.

MY BLOOD FELT HOT, LIKE IT WAS BURNING.

I REALIZED SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH MY BODY AT HEAVEN'S GATE.

PIKI (CRACK)

BIKIKI (CRACKLE)

THE THING DESTROYING MY FAMILY WAS THAT ACCURSED LORD.

CAPTAIN ...!?

THIS IS BAD...

THAT ACCURSED LORD.

DAMN IT... IF THE SUN GOES DOWN NOW...

HOLD HER DOWN, QUICK!!

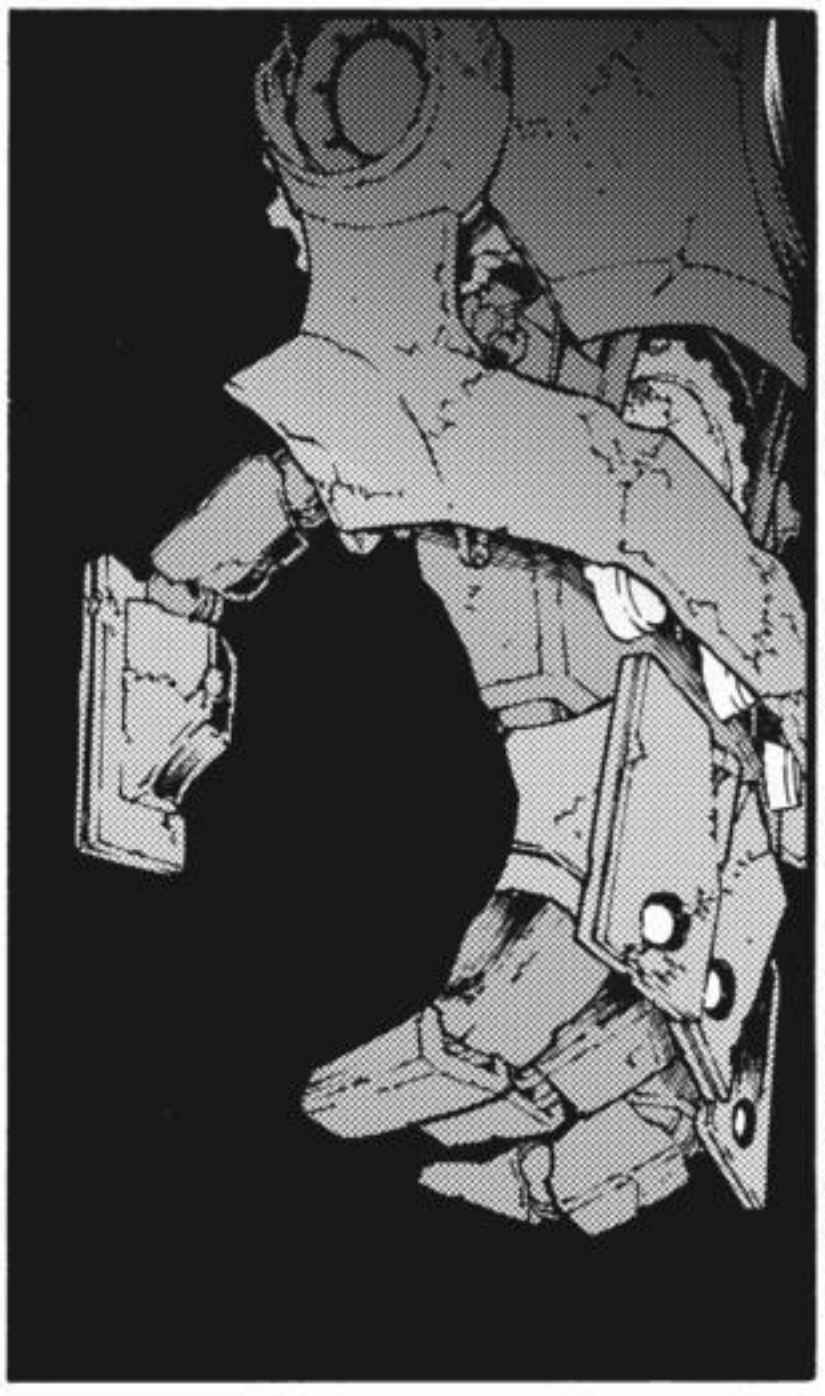
...!!

GET BACK, KIDS!

YOUKOU KAKUJOU.

TAKE CARE OF THE LORD RIGHT NOW.

IT'S A DREADNOUGHT-CLASS SPIDER. I'LL GIVE YOU ONE THOUSAND POINTS.

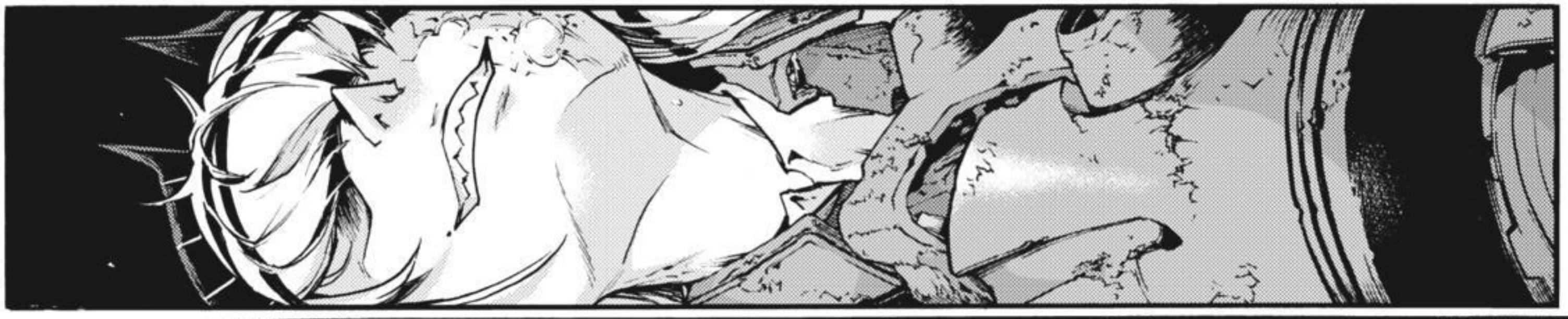














DOSA (THUD)

...I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HESITATE...

THEN I'LL END IT MYSELF!

STOP, KUKURI...!

I JUST WANTED A FAMILY I COULD SMILE WITH.

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T BE HERE.

I'LL ALWAYS BE THE KID NO ONE WANTS.



STOP, CAPTAIN KUKURI!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

DON'T TAKE EVEN MORE AWAY FROM US!

DON'T TAKE OUR PRECIOUS FAMILY AWAY.

.....

...YOU CAN'T.

YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, DON'T YOU? SHE'S THE LORD!

...I DON'T GET IT.

OR "THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE."

ALL THIS "YOU'VE GOTTA KILL 'EM 'COS THEY'RE SPIDERS." OR "THEY'RE RIGHT BECAUSE THEY'RE A GOOD PERSON."

IT'S ALL...

YOU'RE SAYING THAT...?

...WHEN I FOUND OUT MY SISTER WAS A SPIDER...

...I THOUGHT KILLING HER WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

I THOUGHT IT WAS "NORMAL."

YOU ARE!?

BUT NOW I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

I THOUGHT I COULD REPENT FOR MY SINS WITH MY LIFE.

I WAS A FOOL WHO THOUGHT I COULD FLEE THIS WORLD.

I'M SORRY...

I... JUST...

BUT...

...TOGETHER, WE WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE LORD ONCE.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT AGAIN AND AGAIN.

...What's going to happen to them?

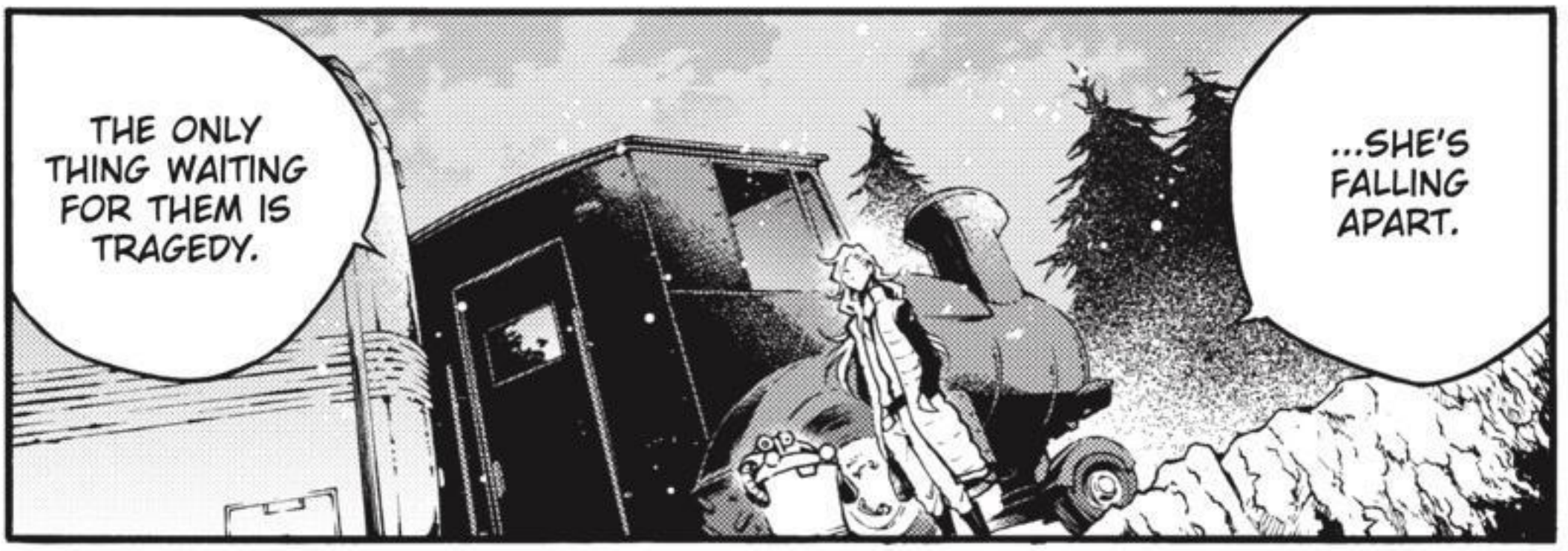
I PULLED TOGETHER DATA TO IMPROVE THE DRUG THAT SUPPRESSES HER MUTATION AND GAVE IT TO HIM.

WE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO TAKE THEM TO THE UNINHABITED ISLAND WHERE THE LAB WAS...

...BUT I'M SURE UDOU-KUN—AND PERHAPS EVEN KUKURI HERSELF—REALIZES IT.

HER BODY DOESN'T GROW.

THE LORD'S CELLS HAVE LONG SINCE PASSED THE HAYFLICK LIMIT.


THE ONLY THING WAITING FOR THEM IS TRAGEDY.
...SHE'S FALLING APART.




...It doesn't look like tragedy to me.



HYU.
(WHOOSH)

OR
MONSTER?

HUMAN?

WHAT
COLOR?

...

SHE HASN'T COME TO, BUT SHE'S STABLE.

...DOC.

HOW IS MY SISTER DOING?

...IF I APOLOGIZE...

...DO YOU THINK SHE'LL HEAR ME?

IT'S REALLY SNOWING HARD.

...I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING. EVERYTHING'S WHITE.

ゴ、GOTO
GTHUNK
ゴ、GOTO
ゴ…

ZA
CCRUNCH

—I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS.

I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE...!

YOU ARE A MONSTER WHO'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE HUMAN.

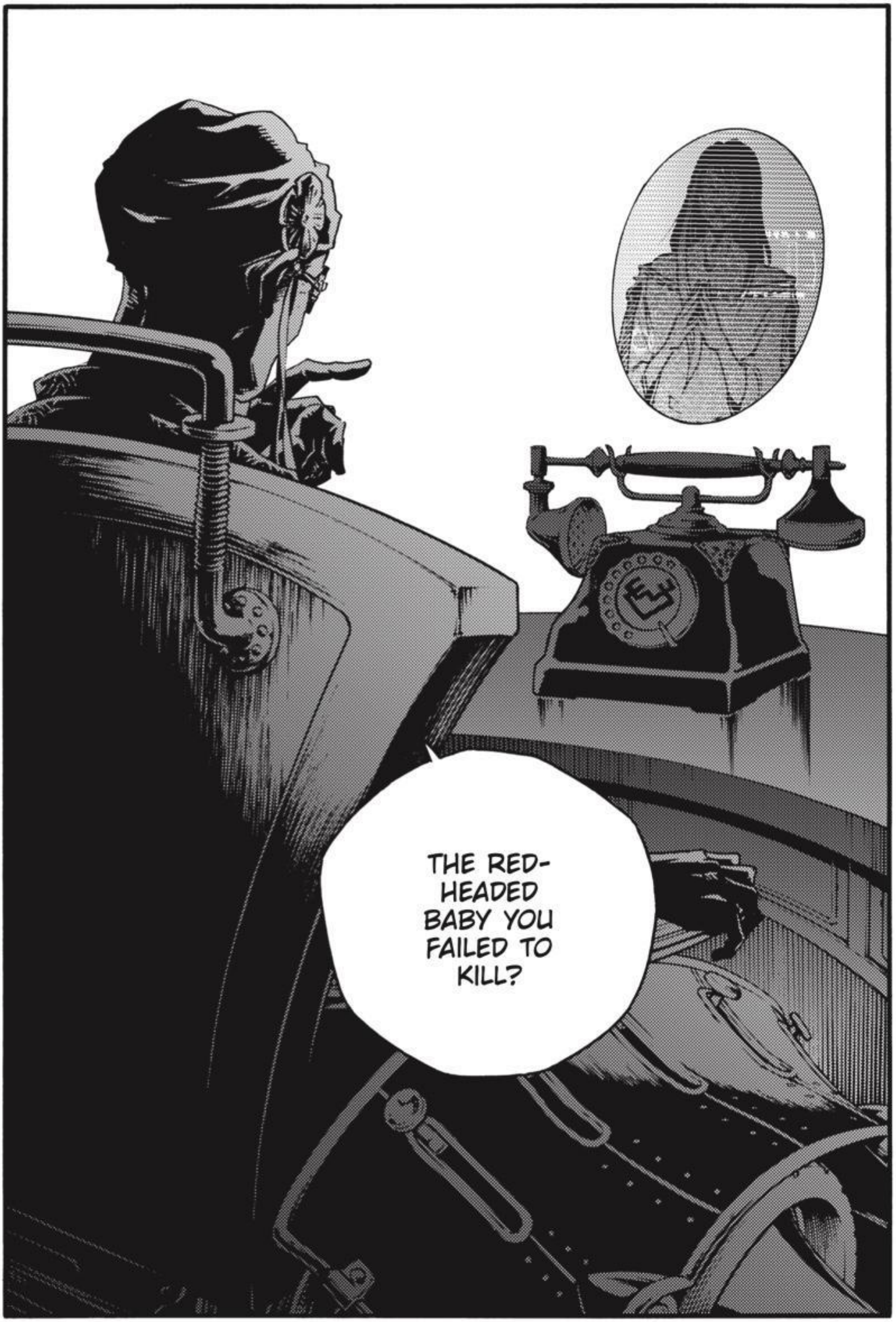
—After all the trouble that failed experiment from Heaven's Gate 901 has given us...

...you haven't managed to take care of it?

...WHICH ONE ARE YOU REFERRING TO?

THE MONSTER THAT TAKES THE FORM OF A GIRL?

OR THE ONE FROM FIFTEEN YEARS AGO?


THE RED-HEADED BABY YOU FAILED TO KILL?



We're all one big family, aren't we?

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN' PARADE #07

By Jinsei Kataoka, Kazuma Kondou

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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WOR

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8

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT



SMOKIN' PARADE

GOD MADE MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE.

THEREFORE, THE CREATURES' FORMS MUST SURELY MATCH GOD'S.

AND MAN, IN TURN, MADE MONSTERS IN HIS IMAGE.

SMOKIN' PARADE

#34

TRIAL BY ORDEAL

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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SMOKIN' PARADE

CHARACTERS

AKUTA

A Jackalope who has taken a liking to Youkou because he sees himself in the kid. A heavy smoker with a sweet tooth.

YOUKOU KAKUJOU

A boy who lost both arms and his right leg when his younger sister turned into a Spider. He has replaced one missing arm with a Gear and joined the Jackalopes.

KOTOHARU

A member of the Jackalopes. He has an incredible amount of respect for Akuta and keeps a collection of items related to him.





KURAMA

A member of the Amenotori corporation. She controlled the Shikagura.



MIDARI



MIRAI KAKUJOU

Youkou's younger sister. She was believed to be dead, but instead she has turned into a Spider and is still living.



MATSUGO



DOC

POTO.

PORO (PLOP)

<HUH? THANKS.>

<WHAT IS THAT?>

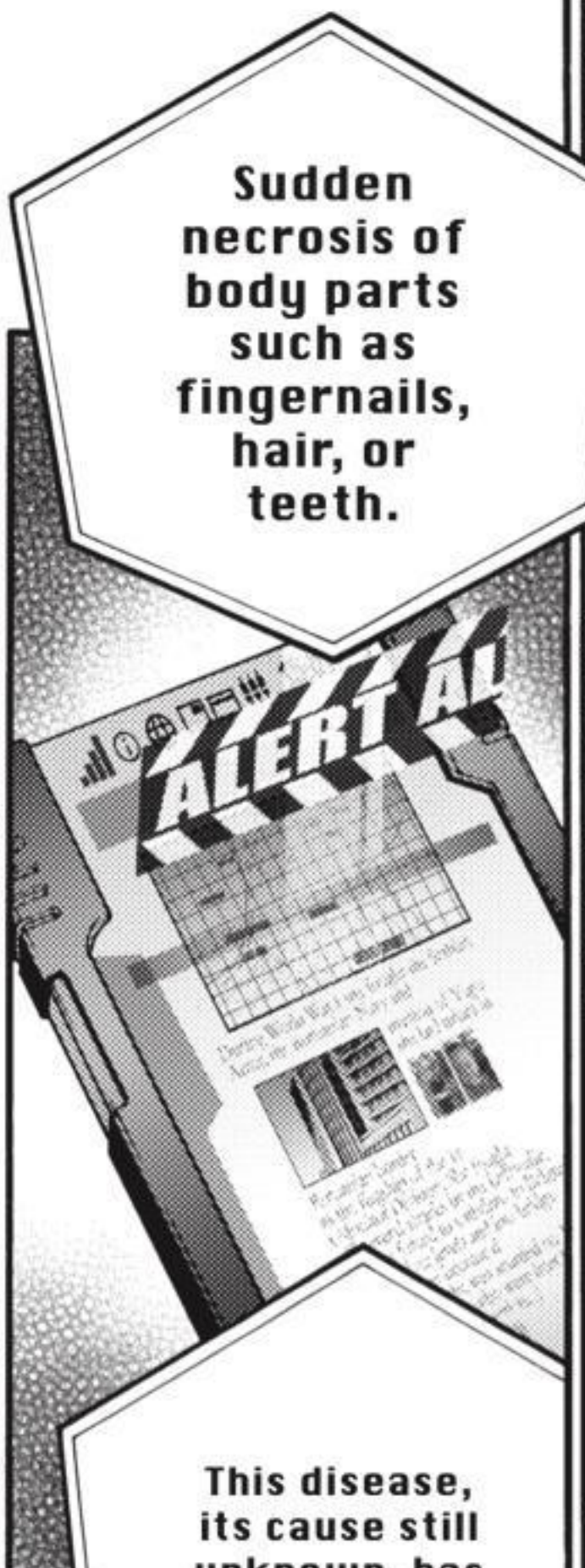
<—YOU DROPPED SOMETHING.>



A mysterious pandemic.

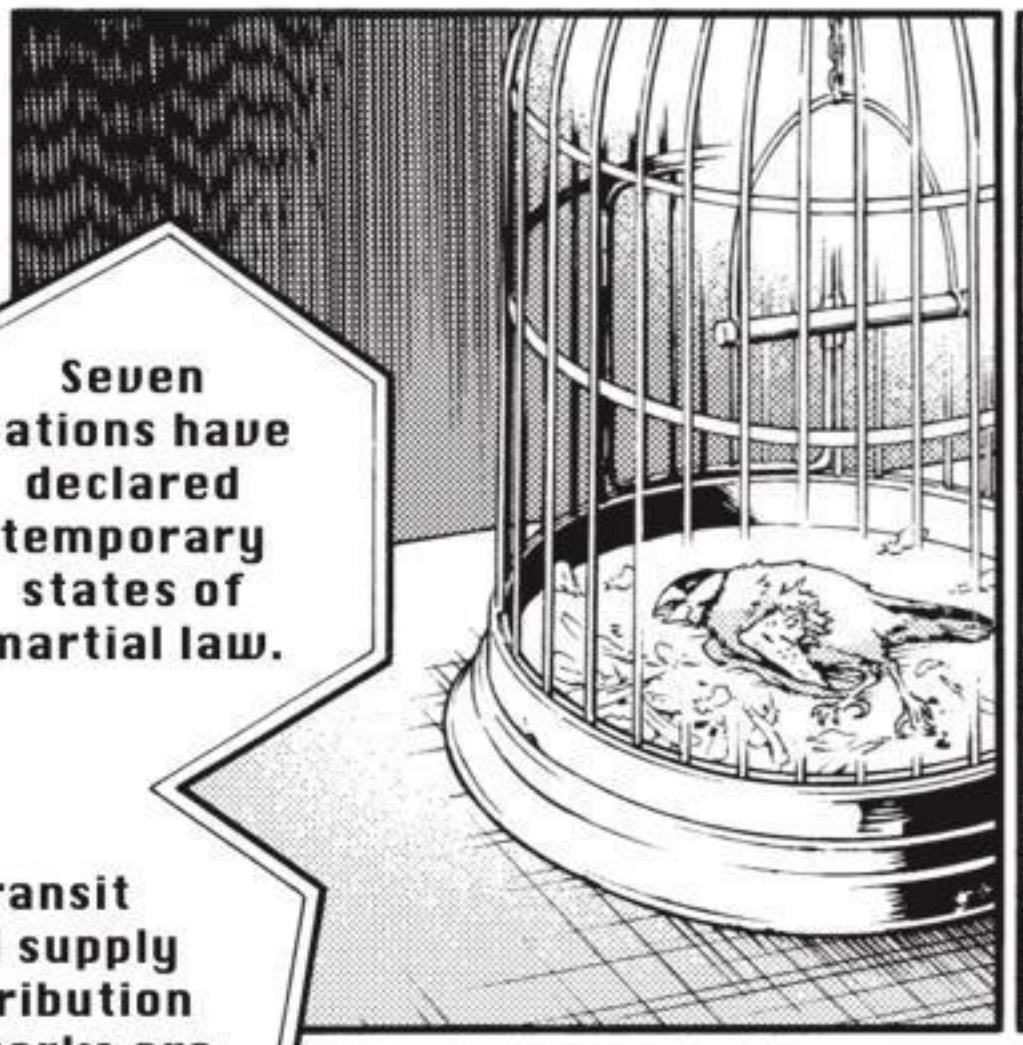


Sudden necrosis of body parts such as fingernails, hair, or teeth.



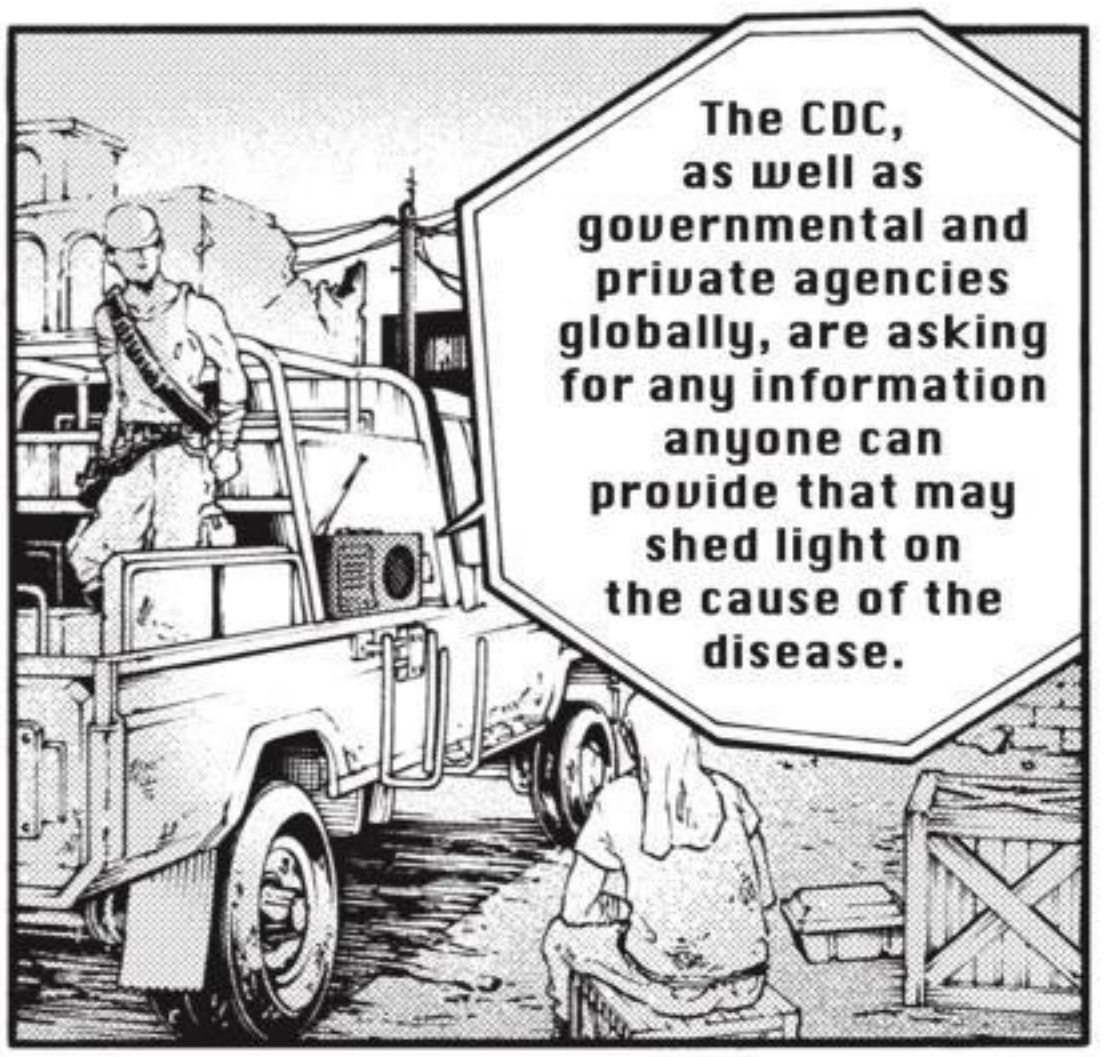
This disease, its cause still unknown, has brought hospitals around the globe to a standstill.





Seven nations have declared temporary states of martial law.

Transit and supply distribution networks are completely shut down.



The CDC, as well as governmental and private agencies globally, are asking for any information anyone can provide that may shed light on the cause of the disease.

Will society perish out of fear?

INSECT TYPE ISN'T SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF ADHESION.

TYPE: plant

TYPE: insect

TYPE: MYCELIUM

HUH?

YOU SPACING OUT? YOU'LL REGRET THAT.

I'M UNABLE TO ORDER MORE SPIDERS TO SERVE AS EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS.

CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA.

SEVEN OF THE MANU-FACTURING FACILITIES...

...HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO HALT PRODUCTION.

...NO, THIS IS THE PRESIDENT'S CODE.

AT THIS RATE, WE WILL ALSO BE FORCED TO HALT OUR SPIDER RESEARCH.

CLOSED

HUH...?

AMENOTORI

—So, given that...

...if I can't start my research again soon, we'll face setbacks.

If we want to create the perfect Spider...

THE PERFECT SPIDER?

I DON'T MIND YOU PERFORMING YOUR RESEARCH.

DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE.

OH, YOU MEAN STRONGER ONES, LIKE YOUR SHIKAGURA?

...?

But we have other needs to see to right now...

...SOMETHING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BIT OFF ABOUT HIM... BUT IS HE NOT SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN PERFECTING THE SPIDERS...?

WHAT DOES HE WANT?

GOOD AFTERNOON.

ZA (BOW)

MY SON.

SU (STAND)

NOW, EVERYONE.

TODAY, AS EVER, THROUGH OUR WORKS WE SHALL STRENGTHEN YOUR NEEDS.

YES, SIR.

TODAY, AS EVER, YOU SHALL WORK HARD TO BE THE PERFECT VESSEL FOR EVERYONE.

DON (SHOVE)

WHY DO THEY THINK THEY CAN TEACH WITHOUT DOLING OUT ANY PUNISHMENT?

BEING YAKUZA THESE DAYS...

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU WORK, NOTHING COMES OF IT...I HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE.

THAT BITCH CHEATED ON ME AGAIN!

GO (CRACK)

PLEASE, HIT ME! MORE!

I'M SURE IF I TAKE THE PAIN IN MY CHILD'S PLACE, SHE'LL SURVIVE.

I'VE BEEN TO SIX DIFFERENT PLACES, AND THEY'VE ALL SAID IT'S MALIGNANT.

BUT I'M SURE AS LONG AS I IGNORE THEM, I'LL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS.

I WANT TO BE LOVED!

I DIDN'T CHOOSE TO BE DAMAGED!

THANK YOU SO MUCH...!

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

NGH...

URK!

...THEN GOD MUST HAVE WORKING EARS.

IF GOD AND MAN SHARE THE SAME FORM...

AND IF GOD HAS A WORKING BRAIN...

...THEN HOW DOES HE DEAL WITH THE CONSTANT BARRAGE OF DESIRES DRESSED UP AS PRAYER, 365 DAYS, 31,536,000 SECONDS...

...WITHOUT BREAKING?

HOW DOES HE KEEP FROM BREAKING?

...YES.

WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE THEM WHILE YOU EAT?

LORD VESSEL, THE AFTERNOON GROUP IS WAITING FOR YOU.

KON (KNOCK)

KON

KON

I JUST WANT TO GO BACK TO HOW I WAS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

I JUST WANT MY EYES BACK.

YES.

.....

MIJIJIJIJI (SKLRRCHD

BUCHU (SQUELCH)

HERE.

WAAAH!

AH!

SOMEONE, CALL A DOCTOR!

PLEASE!

THE NEXT PETITIONER'S NEED IS TO STOP DIALYSIS, RIGHT?

I'LL GIVE YOU MY KIDNEY.

YOU MAY HAVE MY EYE.

My son, please, you must realize the truth.

They did not have a need for your sacrifice or your death.

The self-help sessions were simply not enough for them.

The truth is that God—

—OH, I SEE.

THAT MUST BE QUITE DIFFICULT.

I STILL HAVE PLENTY OF THAT ORGAN LEFT.

OH...

HOW WONDERFUL...

AND I HAVE OPENED A RESEARCH FACILITY.

I WILL SEE TO YOUR NEEDS.

IF GOD...

ZARA (TUMBLE)

THIS IS A DRUG THAT HAS BEEN IN PRODUCTION FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS AT THE FACILITIES THAT WERE SUPPOSEDLY SHUT DOWN.

THEY THE KIND THAT WILL MESS YOU UP?

—WHAT'S WITH THESE TABLETS?

THE LAST SIX MONTHS...?

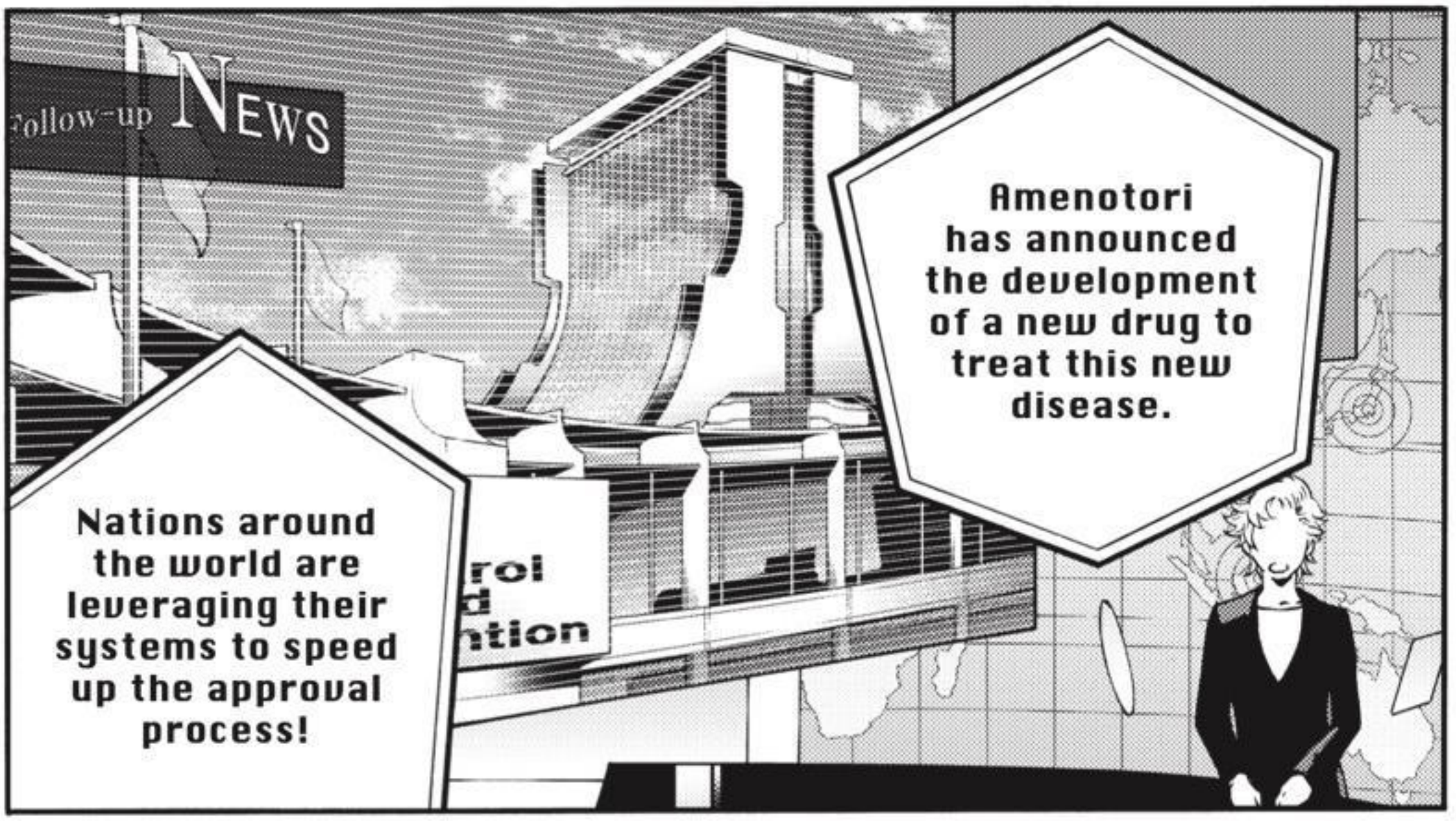
WHAT FOR...?

...CREATED MAN IN HIS IMAGE...

...THEN MAN'S PRAYERS, MAN'S HEART, MAN'S DESIRES...

...THE MONSTERS CREATED BY MAN...

...LAUGH, FOR THEY ARE LIKE GOD.



The drug was developed in just three weeks!

Amenotori has produced a cure that will save the world!

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

#35
GATHERING THE MASSES

HMM, HAVEN'T BEEN BACK TO THE CLOCK ROCK IN A WHILE...

BORK!

HEY!

WELCOME BACK, EVERYONE!

BOOO RK!?

LOOKS TASTY...

HEY, WHERE'S KOTOHARU?

WHERE'S THE TWENTY-PACK OF RED BEAN GRENADES THAT I ASKED HIM TO BRING BACK FROM UP NORTH FOR ME?

UHH, WELL, ACTU-ALLY...

...HE DISAPPEARED FROM INSIDE THE TRUCK...

HUH?

HE SAID, "I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING BACK TO BASE"...

To Jackalope's

Hartwig Kotone

HE RAN AWAY!? THE HELL?

AND APPARENTLY, THE TEAM WE DISPATCHED THERE SAW SOMETHING.

...WE RECEIVED INTEL ON SPIDERS NEAR THE D PROVINCE BORDER YESTERDAY.

...RED KOTOHARU-KUN.

...HA!

...AND NOW THE CRYBABY'S HAVING SOME ISSUES.

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT HAPPENED ON YOUR LITTLE TRIP UP NORTH...

NO WAY!

I'M WAITING FOR MY NOT-SO-SWEET SOUVENIR NOW.

SO HE'S OUT HUNTING SPIDERS ON HIS OWN?

WHO CARES? JUST LEAVE HIM.

ZA (STEP)

She's been in a coma for over two months now. You probably shouldn't expect any sort of reaction from her.

Over here.

VIIIN (WHIRR)

BUT HE'S THE ONE WHO PUT HER IN THE COMA IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SHUU (HISSS)

HUH? UM... IS IT ALL RIGHT TO LET HIM SEE HER?

WHO KNOWS?

SHUU

MIRAI...

BUT IT WAS ALSO REALLY WARM...

I THINK I FINALLY GET WHAT FAMILY IS SUPPOSED TO BE.

.....

I WENT SOMEWHERE REALLY COLD WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.

...SO...

...SORRY FOR EVERYTHING.

...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOUKOU-KUN!?

THAT'S STILL HIM, RIGHT?

.....

CHIN (CLINK)

I...

...HE'S LEARNED TO MAKE THAT SORT OF EXPRESSION.

IT WASN'T JUST KOTOHARU. THEY ALL WENT THROUGH A LOT.

...WANNA...

...EAT YOUR GRATIN AGAIN.

GABA (JUMP)

HUH!?

I NEED TO GO HIT THE SALES AT THE STORE, THEN!

!?

ONII-CHAN WILL TOTALLY EAT FIVE KILOS OF FOOD!!

WAH! WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE TUBES?

WHERE'S MY WALLET!?

MORNING, MIRAI. .....

[redacted]

MOKU (BUBBLE)

MOKU

HELLO! LUCKY LUCKY SHOP HEEERE!

WHOA. THAT REEKS!!

GATA (CLATTER)

BASUN (THUMP)

!!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU BLACK DEMONS!?

WAS IT TERROR-ISTS?

OR THAT WEIRD DISEASE THAT'S GOING AROUND!?

DON (TA-DAA)

OOPS!

ALMOST FORGOT THE CREAM AND TUNA!

OH!

UP

PAGON (THWACK)

KYA!?

BAN (BOING)

I'M WITH THE GROCERY WHOLESALER LUCKY LUCKY SHOP.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT DAIKON RADISH!?

GRR!

GARBAGE!? THAT'S SO RUDE, WATERMELON WOMAN!

THAT'S MY LOVINGLY MADE HOME COOKING!!

THAT FOOD WAS PROVIDED BY YOURS TRULY, THE GLORIOUS YINGHUA, SO STOP TURNING IT INTO PURE GARBAGE!

SO HELLO! AND WHAT IS GOING ON HERE, LITTLE GIRL!?

WATER-MELON?

HOME COOKING!? NO ONE COULD POSSIBLY EAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

MOCCHA

MOCCHA (MUNCH)

APPARENTLY, THIS IS THEIR TOUCHING(?) SIBLING REUNION.

KOFF!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, YINGHUA-CHAN.

DEZAKI'S TRYING TO EAT THIS LITTLE PUPPER HERE TOO.

SO COULD WE POSSIBLY ORDER A BIT MORE FOOD THAN USUAL?

THESE SIBLINGS COULD KEEP THEIR APPETITES EVEN IN HELL...

BORK!

...I GUESS SO.

ZOWAA (SHUDDER)

KYUN (SWOON)

YOU'RE SO COOL, ONII-CHAN!♥

HUH?

GOTON (THUNK)

BA (GRAB)

FLOUR

YOU LITTLE THIEF!!

DAN (SLAM)

YOU LITTLE BRAT!

DON'T YOU DARE UNDERESTIMATE EITHER OUR FARMS OR LUCKY LUCKY SHOP!

NGH...!!

ハッ!

PACHIN (CLINK)

SHUT...

...UP!

!

HYU (WHOOSH)

PAGIN (SHATTER)

HUH? SORRY.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR KNIFE BROKE.

DA (DASH)

.....!

DAMMIT!

YOU ALL RIGHT?

OH, THERE YOU ARE, ONII...

YOU SAVED ME.

...BUT THANKS.

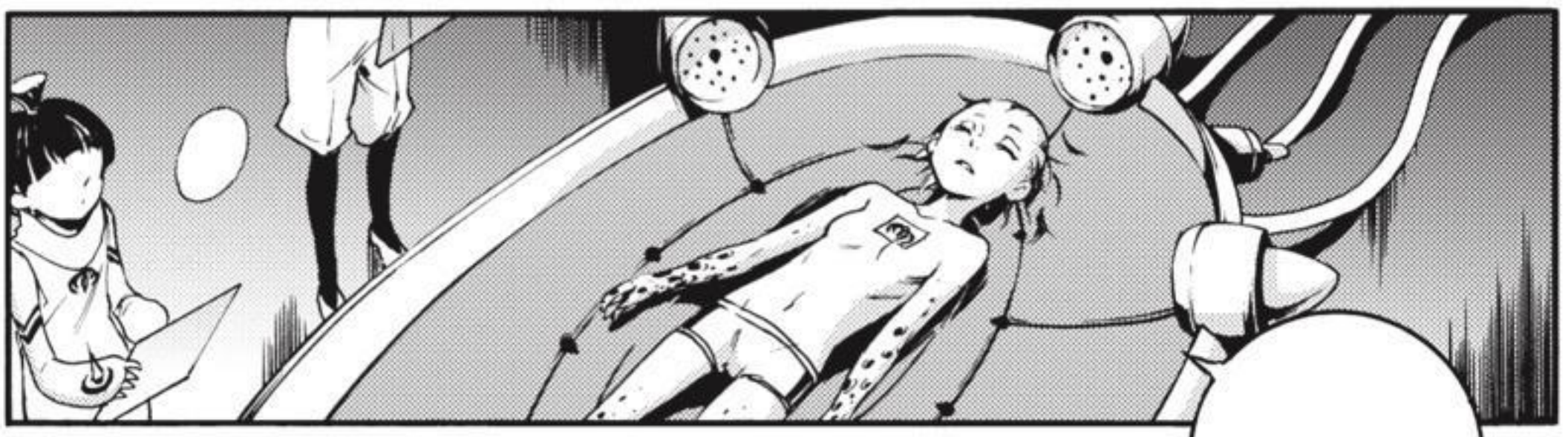
TH-THIS SORT OF STUFF HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN THE SLUMS.

BIKUU (FLINCH) ビクッ

RRRAA-AAAGH!

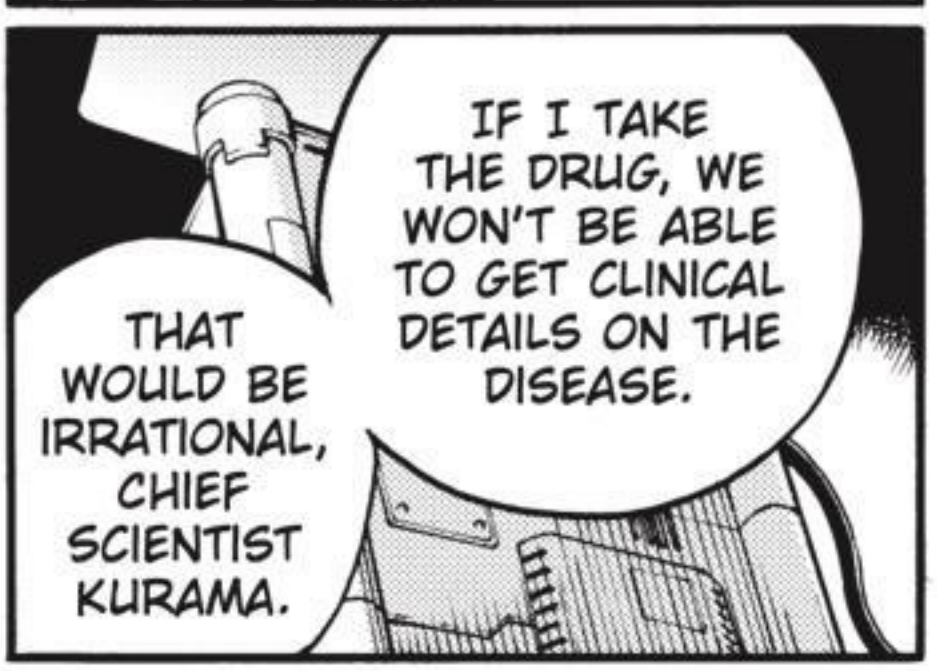
RRGH!


WANT TO TAKE IT?




PLEASE WAIT. I WILL BE DEAD IN SEVEN HOURS.


NO.


IF I TAKE THE DRUG, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET CLINICAL DETAILS ON THE DISEASE.
THAT WOULD BE IRRATIONAL, CHIEF SCIENTIST KURAMA.

...YEAH.

馬尼可醫院
MANILA HOSPITAL

LOOK AT THIS. THIS IS AN IMAGE OF THE NECROTIZED TUNNELS IN THEIR FINAL STAGES.

BUT AFTER TAKING THE DRUG...

...THIS IS HOW THINGS STAND RIGHT NOW.

YES. HOW-EVER...

NO MATTER WHAT STAGE THE DRUG HAS REACHED IN CLINICAL TRIALS, THE FATE OF HUMANITY DEPENDS ON DISTRIBUTING THIS GLOBALLY, JUST AS YOU WOULD IN THE MORE DEVELOPED NATIONS!

IT'S TRULY AMAZING! I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY MY CIGARS AGAIN!

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE ENOUGH TO TREAT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!

AMENOTORI

...YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO *PURCHASE* THE DRUG. YOU SEE...

...WE WILL BE *DONATING* ALL OF IT TO YOU.♡

YOU MEAN...? THIS IS A MIRACLE!

WHAT!?

<WHAT!?>

...NO. "WE AT AMENOTORI HAVE SELFLESS SOULS.

"THE CUSTOMER IS OUR GOD.

"AND WE DO NAUGHT BUT SERVE." —THAT IS ALL.

"THIS IS WHAT OUR GOD NEEDS."

HEH HEH...

SO I'M A "POOR KID," YOU KNOW?

THE ONE PARENT I HAD LEFT DIED FROM THE DISEASE.

...YEAH.

...HUH?

SO YOU'RE ONE OF THEM?

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD ANYTHING TO EAT BECAUSE OF THAT DISEASE.

I'M WEAK, SO I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT DO BAD THINGS, YOU KNOW?

HILARIOUS, RIGHT?

SINCE I'M STUCK EATING CAT FOOD, YOU CAN'T BLAME ME IF I STEAL A LITTLE FOOD, RIGHT?

I MEAN, COPS AND OTHER POWERFUL PEOPLE DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS.

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT, YOU DAMNED BRAT?

BUT...

IT MAKES WAY MORE SENSE FOR POOR LITTLE ME TO GET THE GOODS THAN SOME STUPID HALF-ROBOT THUGS!

HEH HEH!

IT'S SERIOUSLY HILARIOUS!

A RADISH.

BAGO (THWACK)

"STEALING IS BAD." "I WAS HUNGRY." "I'M LONELY."

IF YOU DO, YOU CAN COME EAT WITH ME ANYTIME.

JUST BE HONEST ABOUT IT!

THAT'S ABUSE!!

OWWW! WHAT THE HELL, OLD HAG!?

YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF, STUPID BRAT.

THE EXPECTATIONS OF SOCIETY MAY HAVE YOU ALL CONFUSED, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET THAT GET YOU ALL TWISTED.

NO MATTER WHAT SITUATION YOU'RE IN...

...YOU CAN STILL ***CHOOSE TO THINK AND ACT IN THE RIGHT WAY.***

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF!

NO ONE CAN LABEL YOU AS WEAK OR STRONG BUT YOURSELF, AFTER YOU'VE GONE THROUGH A DESPERATE STRUGGLE.

NO MATTER WHAT SORT OF PERSON YOU ARE, YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND YOURSELF FIGHTING AGAINST SOMETHING.

SO LISTEN UP.

DON'T ASSUME WHAT SOMEONE IS ON THE INSIDE MATCHES WHAT'S AROUND THEM.

YOU CAN GO CRAZY IN HEAVEN.

...BUT FIGHTING TO STAY ON THE RIGHT PATH THROUGH HELL IS WHAT MAKES YOU HUMAN!

.....

...YEAH.

SHE'S A BIG PERSON.

.....

SHE SAYS THE SAME SORTS OF THINGS AS KAKUJOU-JIICHAN.

CALL ME ONEE-SAN!

HEY!

THAT RADISH HURTS!

...YOU'RE WEIRD.

FOR AN OLD HAG, YOU—

GO (THWACK)

I DON'T THINK... IT'S JUST HER CHEST THAT'S BIG.

I'VE LOST IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE...

Special news update.

AMENOTORI

WORLD SALVATION PROJ

Amenotori has announced plans for their new drug, designed to treat the current pandemic.

They intend to donate the drug to all countries around the world.

SIGN: LUCKY LUCKY SHOP

I'M BACK, GRANDMA!

HOW'S YOUR BACK?

BETTER.

GARA (CLATTER)

GARA

HA HA.

THAT PLACE IS EXHAUST-ING.

SO? ANY FINE YOUNG GENTLEMEN JOIN THE BLACK DEMONS RECENTLY?

PI (FWIP)

HUH? !? NO WAY!

MY NAIL CAME OFF!?

YOU ALL RIGHT, YINGHUA!?

PORO (PLOP)

ISN'T THAT THE DISEASE THEY'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT ON THE NEWS?

YOU SHOULD GO TO THE HOSPITAL, JUST IN CASE.

SOME DRUG COMPANY HAS DECIDED TO BE GENEROUS AND GIVE OUT MEDICINE FOR FREE, YOU KNOW.

BAN (SLAM)

...WHAT IS WITH THIS DRUG?

BACHIN (BZZZT)

!

BUCHI (SNAP)

THIS DATA IS *UNNECESSARY.*

IF THEY SPREAD THIS AROUND...

I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS NASTY SHIT...

YOU DO NOT NEED IT.

...!

DAMN DOG! YOU JUST WIPED ALL THE DATA THAT KAMURO GAVE THEIR BODY TO COLLECT.

PERHAPS *YOU*...

...ARE ALSO *UNNECES-SARY*?

...?

THIS IS BAD.

AMENOTORI IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE GODS' DIVINE BOAT BOUND FOR HEAVEN.

BUT THIS BOAT...

...IS MORE LIKE...

HMM...

...WHILE I TOOK MY LITTLE TRIP UP NORTH...

...THIS IS ALMOST LIKE...

...AMENOTORI WAS UP TO SOME PRETTY AWFUL STUFF.

AMENOTORI WORLD SALVATION PRO

...A SINKING SHIP SET ABLAZE.

SMO

KUN!

PARADE

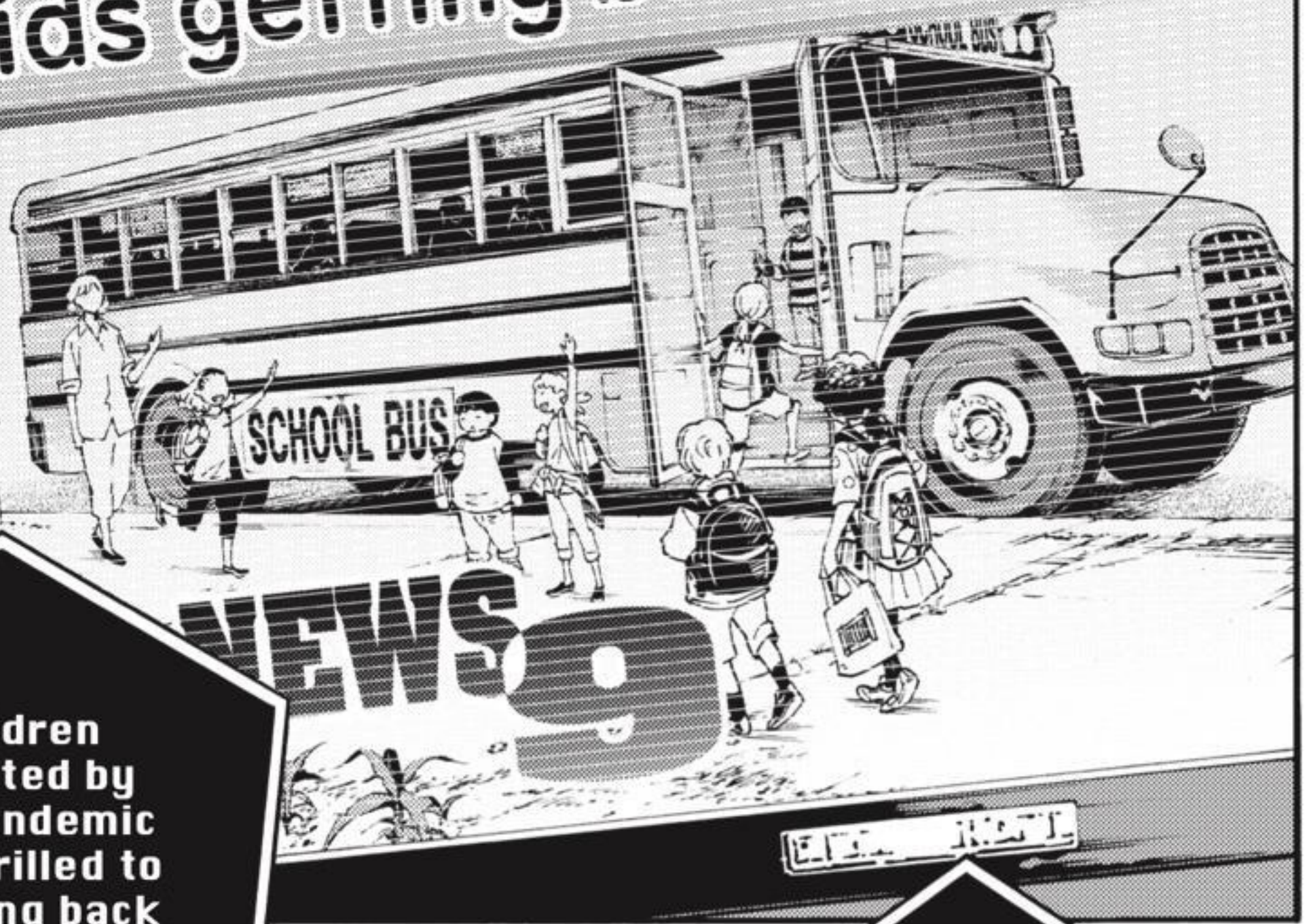
THE WORLD IS DEAD,
THE
PARADE
WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA

KAZUMA KONDOU

TODAY TOPIX

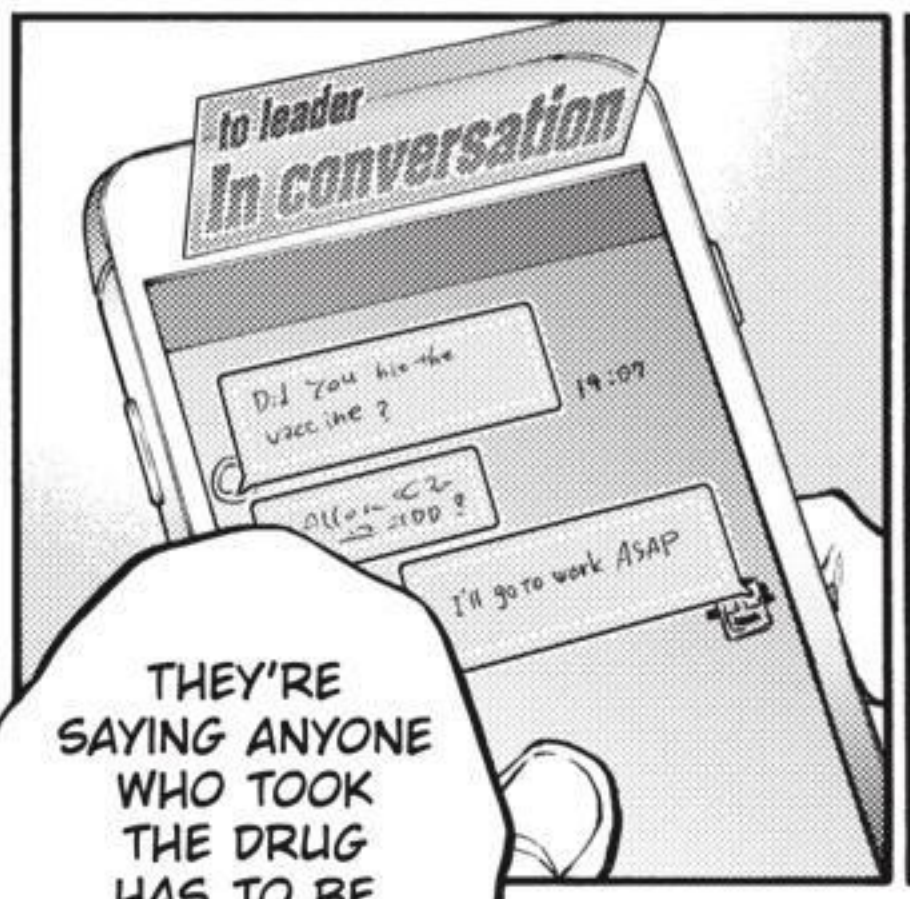
Kids getting back to school



NEWS 9

Children affected by the pandemic are thrilled to be going back to school.

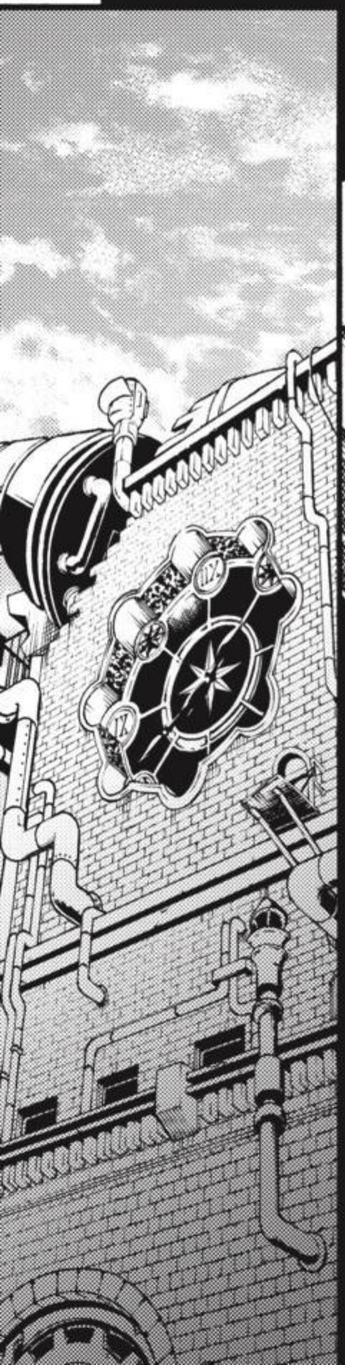
Their return to class is full of smiles.





#36
I L L - PREPARED P A N I C

It seems the time to fear this pandemic is coming to an end.







APPEARANCE IS FIFTY PERCENT OF COOKING.

NOW LISTEN UP.

LESSONS ON COOKING WITHOUT WASTING FOOD

(800 YEN AN HOUR)

IT'S ABOUT THE TASTE!

DOES THE TRICK TO TELLING SUGAR AND SALT APART HAVE TO DO WITH THE VOLUME OF YOUR BREASTS?

HMM...

URGH...

OH, THERE'S AN OPENING.

PECHI (THWIP)

UGH.

WHAT? BUT IT HAS A TAIL!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO PUT THE BONES IN!

DO YOUR BEST, MIRAI.

IF YOU'RE GONNA COOK, THEN MAKE SOMETHING SWEEEEEET!

GASHAN (CRASH)

AKUTA-SAN WILL DO WHATEVER I SAY FOR THIS SIMPLE SYRUP. LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.

TOROO (GLOOP)

WITHOUT KOTOHARU HERE TO PLY HIM WITH SWEETS, HE'S AT HIS WIT'S END, ISN'T HE...?

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO.

KUN (SNIFF)

BAKOOON (THWACK)

WHA? A GREEN ONION!?

EVEN THOUGH WE KILL SPIDERS.

WE COULD TRY TO GO OUT AND LET OFF SOME STEAM, BUT PEOPLE HATE US BLACK DEMONS OUT THERE...

I GOT A RAW EGG THROWN AT ME THE OTHER DAY.

YOU GUYS CHOSE TO TAKE THE ROLE OF THE EVIL DEMONS!

SO JUST SUCK IT UP AND SLURP DOWN THOSE RAW EGGS!

?

THANKS, YINGHUA-CHAN. I WISH I HAD AS BIG A HEART AS YOU DO.

...HA HA.

KAA (BLUSH)

YOUR HEART?

MUNI (SQUISH)

MEG!
(CREAK)

...ONII-CHAN.

THERE'S NO NEED TO DO THAT.

WHY DO YOU HAVE ORANGES STUFFED DOWN YOUR SHIRT, MIRAI?

?

THEY'RE MY CITRUS HEART.

SO BIG...

?

.....

HOW CAN YOU LAUGH AT THAT?

HEH HEH.

AND SHE WAS ONE OF THE SHIKAGURA.

THEY KILLED SHIBA-SAN.

.....

BUT SHE DIDN'T KILL HIM HERSELF.

BE-SIDES...

...SHE'S A SPIDER, YOU KNOW.

IT WASN'T A MATTER OF WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE OR WHAT THEY SAID.

THEY JUST HAD THIS HUMAN FEEL TO THEM.

...THEY WERE REALLY STRONG ENEMIES, BUT I UNDERSTOOD THEM.

AND NO ONE COULD FINISH OFF THE CAPTAIN UP NORTH FOR THE SAME REASON—'COS SHE WAS TOO HUMAN.

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND REAL SPIDERS.

THEY'RE VICIOUS ANIMALS, DRIVEN MAD BY THEIR DESIRES.

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SCARY AND WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL THEM.

...YEAH.

RRR.

R R R R R

calling To... AMËNOTORI

R R R

...THEY WERE HANDING THESE OUT AT A LOCAL HOSPITAL.

KARAN (RATTLE)

VI (WHIRR)

!

WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME THAT, SHIRAMA?

...NO.

DO YOU KNOW...

...WHAT THIS DRUG FROM AMENOTORI IS, BOSS?

WELL...

...BECAUSE AMENOTORI AND THE JACKALOPES...

...ARE CONNECTED THROUGH YOU, AREN'T THEY?

...!

...SOMETHING UNTHINKABLE IS HAPPENING.

calling
FAILED
-ERROR-

IT SEEMS WE'RE NO LONGER CONNECTED.

...OF COURSE I FIGURED IT OUT.

I AM THE FORMER BOY GENIUS, AFTER ALL.

OH, I WON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE.

...HEH.

ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL, WATERMELON-SAN?

IT'S YING-HUA!

HOO...

GOKUN (GULP)

FACKY LAND

.....

I'LL BE RIGHT AS RAIN IF I GET SOME FOOD IN ME.

I'M JUST FINE.

FACKY LAND

ONE-DAY TICKET
*FREE PANDEMIC VACCINATION WITH ALL

WAI (CHATTER)

FACKY LAND

ONE-DAY TICKET

WAI

FACKY-CHAN'S SO CUUUTE! ♥

WAI

WHOA, IT'S A PARADE! ♪

GARI (CRUNCH)

GARI

DON (BUMP)

WHAT THE...? THAT—

YEEP!

...DIDN'T HURT AT ALL!

...

MAYBE I'LL FIND IT IF I HIT UP ALL THE SWEETS SHOPS.

Well then, just come k to

Hmmm... The report was pretty conclusive.

Pi

THIS PLACE IS FULL OF PEOPLE IN COSTUME.

WHERE'S THIS SPIDER SUPPOSED TO BE?

RAAH!

Time for Facky-kun and Sacky-chan's gorgeous float!♪

Welcome to the parade!!

!

F

F

ONE, TWO...

COME ON!

HEY! YOU HAVE TO DANCE!

GABU (CHOMP)

Another bright day in dreamland!♪

GAKIN (CRUNCH)

GORI (GRIND)

GORI

STOP!

BAKI (SNAP)

WAAH!

GOKYU (SQUEEZE)

A wonderful holiday!♪

Facky's soooo hungry!

FOUND THE TARGET.

AAAAAA

WAAAAAA

PI

PI PI PI

PI

AKUTA

HUH...?

PI

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M PICKING UP TRACES OF...

PI PI PI

WHAT'S UP WITH THE BUS DRIVER?

THAT'S NOT SAFE!

HEH HEH HEH HEH! SPEED !!

MEGIGIGI (KRRRAK)

DO YOU LIKE SPEED ?

MEKIKI (KRICK)

...SPEED...

...BUT...

NOOO !!

A MONSTER!

KyAAA!?

MEKI (KRRK)

I LIKE SPEED TOO!

SPEED!

GO, GO!

GYA (SKREE)

GIKI (KRIK)

GYA

GYA

GYA

GYA

MEKI

HEY, ARE YOU SEEING THIS!?

THAT'S THE BUS FROM THIS MORNING!

THE HELL? THAT'S SO NOT GOOD!

School bus BURN UP!!

WHOA!

SERIOUSLY, LOOK!

BON (BOOF)

!?

BON

AAA

AAA

FACTORY

!?

I'M DETECTING SPIDERS IN COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE GLOBE...

THIS HAS TO BE AN ERROR, RIGHT?

TWENTY-SIX... NO, THIRTY-TWO JUST IN TOKYO, AND THEY'RE STILL COMING.

WHAT THE...!?

Doc, this is...

Click!

DAM-MIT...

...ARE TURNING INTO SPIDERS...!!

PEOPLE WHO NEVER HAD A TRANSPLANT FROM AMENOTORI...

THIS IS LIKE A NIGHTMARE LAND!

HOME RUN !!

BAKAN (THWACK)

GH!

CUTIE CURL!

BUN (SWING)!!!

BO TO!

DOKA (CRASH)

GUH...!

NO, THIS IS DIFFERENT.

THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD MANAGE THIS MANY AT ONCE.

IS SIS SENDING OUT SPIDERS AGAIN, LIKE SHE DID WITH THE SHIKAGURA...?

THIS IS A PRETTY...

...EEEAT!

TIME TO...

THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?

...SWEET SITUATION!

DO

DO

DO

DO (BLAM)



ZASHU
(STAB)

BIRIRIRI
(RRRRRIP)

GOSHI
(WHAM)

GASHI
(GRAB)

GO (BLAM)

BOTO (BLOP)

BOTO

ZORO (CROWD)

ZORO

ZO

!

A WHOLE PARK JUST FOR ME, HUH?

I'LL EVEN LET YOU SUCK ON MY CANDY!

COME ON, MY SWEETS !!!

...WH—

WHAT THE...?

HA HA HA

YOU MADE THIS, MIRAI!?

PAAA (SHIIINE)

ZAWA (CLAMOR)

ZAWA

EVERYONE ELSE LOOKS REALLY BUSY...

...SO GO BRING THIS TO YINGHUA-SAN FOR ME, ONII-CHAN.

IT'S PERFECT, IN TASTE, LOOKS, AND NUTRITION!

HEH!

WHY ME?

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT!

THIS IS THE BEST NOURISHMENT FOR YOU!

IT'S HOPELESS. THE OTHER BRANCHES CAN'T COPE!

WE HAVE SEVERAL JACKA-LOPES DOWN...

P

P

P

?

OKAY, I GUESS.

THE NORTHERN BASE IS REQUESTING EVACUATION OF THE CHILDREN.

WHAT'S GOING ON...!?!?

OH!

I WENT AROUND TOWN THREE TIMES.

GOOD. I WASN'T SURE WHERE YOU LIVED.

...YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

YOU CAN HAVE THIS IF YOU WANT...

KIKI (SCREECH)

BRRRR

MAGATAMA GERMINATION CONFIRMED.

Pi

FACTOR TRANSFERENCE M-88. SIGNS OF MANIFESTATION.

Pi

ガチャ.
GACHA
CKACHAK

ZORO
(TROMP)

ZORO

THAT ONE.

WHAT'S WITH THEM...?

KACHI
(CLICK)

BASHUN (BSSHT)

CESSATION OF LIFE SIGNS IN HOST...

...CON-FIRMED.

KATSUN (CLACK)

HONESTLY!

GACHAN (CLATTER)

THE BLOOD OF THIS SILLY BACK-ALLEY GIRL...

...IS BAD FOR THE SKIN!

THE WORLD IS DE

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

THE PARADE WILL START.

BUT HE WAS EVEN MORE OF A GENIUS.

I WAS A GENIUS.

IF HE WAS THE CANDY, I WAS JUST THE FREE TOY.

MY STUPID, HATEFUL LITTLE BROTHER.


#37
CHAOTIC
CONFUSION

BASHU (BSSHT)

...!?

YINGHUA-SAN...!!

KURAMA? AMENOTORI'S CHIEF SCIENTIST...!?

WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE...!??

BACHIN
(SMACK)

!

...FOOLISH BLACK DEMONS.

...I MADE THESE CLONES OF KAMURO FROM LEFTOVER RESEARCH MATERIALS, AND EACH OF THEM IS MORE THAN CAPABLE AND WILLING TO DESTROY THEMSELVES TO PROTECT ME.

I

BASHA (SNAP)

SMILE A LITTLE MORE, PLEEEASE!

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE...

...THEN GO GET THAT DISGUSTING LITTLE BROTHER OF MINE!

BASHA (SNAP)

THE HEADLINE WILL BE "BOY GENIUS GRADUATES FROM COLLEGE!!"

HE'S NOT EVEN GOING TO MENTION MY NAME.

GIRI (SQUEEZE)

AND AS A **BONUS**, YOUR BIG SISTER EVEN GRADUATED AT THE SAME TIME.

A HUGE STORY LIKE THIS IS GONNA GET TONS OF VIEWS!

BASHA

THE NUMBER OF DEGREES AND PATENTS YOU HAVE BROKE THE GUINNESS WORLD RECORD, SHIRAMA-KUN!

IF YOUR SPONSORS DON'T SEE SOME RESULTS FROM YOUR RESEARCH, WE'RE GONNA END UP SLEEPING UNDER A BRIDGE!

WHAT ARE YOU JUST LYING AROUND FOR, SHIRAMA!!?

HMMM...

SHUT UP ALREADY...

YOU CAN JUST QUIT YOUR PART-TIME JOB AND GET SOME RESULTS YOURSELF, THENNN.

GET WITH IT!

IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN DEPEND ON THOSE ALCOHOLICS WE CALL OUR PARENTS, YOU KNOW.

I NEED HUMAN BODIES FOR MY RESEARCH, BUT THAT RUNS INTO ETHICAL ISSUES, SO I'M AT A DEAD END.

I'M NOT TOUCHING YOUR STUPID ROBOT WORK.

MY RESEARCH IS FOCUSED ON LIVING ORGANISMS.

...

...HEY, WHAT'S WITH THAT BLOOD?

...YOU KNOW MY MAIN RESEARCH IS ON PROSTHETICS.

I'M JUST AS STUCK AS YOU WHEN I CAN'T DO HUMAN TESTING.

I TRIED TO DO MY FIRST HUMAN TEST...

...BUT I GUESS I MESSED UP THE DESIGN JUST A LITTLE.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE CONFERENCE IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

.....

THAT'S THE WORST POSSIBLE SCENARIO FOR OUR BOY GENIUS!

IF STOCK PRICES SLUMP ANY FURTHER, WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CUT OFF YOUR FUNDING! UNDERSTOOD?

BLOOD POISONING BECAUSE OF A MISTAKE!?

...MY BROTHER.

...HEAL...

...I WILL...

RATHER THAN HAVING A TOP TRANSPLANT SURGEON PERFORM, THE CHANCES WOULD BE BETTER BY RESTORING THE EYEBALL ITSELF USING I.P.S. CELLS.

IT WON'T BE SIMPLE.

COME NOW. I DON'T KNOW ALL THE SPECIFICS...

...BUT WON'T HIS ENTIRE EYEBALL NEED TO BE TRANSPLANTED? CAN YOU DO THAT?

HUH?

AND FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A GOOD DONOR MATCH FOR THE EYEBALL.

...AS YOUR BROTHER'S SPONSOR, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD FIX HIM.

BUT WITH MY SKILLS, I CAN DO IT.


...WE SIMPLY NEED TO TAKE IT FROM THE EXTRA.

...Huh?

WAAA

WAAA (CLAMOR)

CLAP.

And now, the top talent from our E.F. Group...

...the boy genius, Shirama Hazama...

CLAP

DR. SHIRAMA HERE! ♪

HISO (WHISPER)

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY DOES HE HAVE ANOTHER ARTIFICIAL EYE!?

HISO

I WAS TOLD HIS SISTER'S SURGERY TOOK TWENTY-EIGHT HOURS, BUT IT WAS A SUCCESS...

This eye is a perfect union of the organic and the robotic.

—My artificial eye has forty-four zettabytes of bandwidth, can see as well as a military satellite, and is connected directly to my brain.

They use a special metal alloy in order to control the mass.

GATAN (CLATTER)

With my prosthetics, we can literally upgrade humanity!

LIVE

Dr.SHIRAMA

NET NEWS

With my research...

We won't need to do anything as revolting as putting another person's pieces inside our bodies.

...we won't ever need advanced surgeries like organ transplants.

HMM...

IT'S BEEN THIRTEEN YEARS, RIGHT? YOUR HOBBIES ARE JUST AS NASTY AS EVER.

ZA (STEP)

WASN'T COMING FOR THE JACKALOPES WITH THOSE SHIKAGURA OF YOURS ENOUGH? DON'T YOU THINK KILLING A CIVILIAN GIRL IS A BIT MUCH?

...WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE, NEE-CHAN?

KAPO (THWUP)

.....

FROM ZERO TO PISSED!?

BAGOO (THWACK)

I'M HERE SO YOU CAN PAY ME BACK FOR MY EYE!

DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M JUST HERE TO CHAT WITH YOUR UGLY FACE AND NASTY TEETH?

BAGON (THWACK)

HRK!

IT WAS TRANS-PLANT RAPE—

I NEVER ASKED TO BORROW THAT PIECE OF GARBAGE.

I WAS COMPLETELY IN THE RIGHT TO DO ALL OF THAT!

BEFORE

AFTER

THERE! THAT TEMPER OF YOURS IS THE WORST!

YOU USED TO USE ANTIBACTERIAL PRODUCTS TO CLEAN UP THE NEW STRAINS OF MOLD I FOUND!

YOU TOOK ALL THE METAL STUFF I JACKED TO USE FOR MY RESEARCH AND SORTED IT TO THROW AWAY!

YOU KEPT ARRANGING MY BOOKS BY THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM!

BESIDES, NUMBER FOUR ONLY RAN AWAY BECAUSE YOU WERE GROWING CULTURES ON MOUSE SKIN IN THE VEGETABLE DRAWER!

YA A A A

I WAS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO GET THEM TO GO CANCEROUS! I LOST FOUR YEARS OF PROGRESS ON MY ANTHRAX-NEUTRALIZING GAS BECAUSE OF YOU!

THAT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU LACK THE SKILLS.

THOSE CREAM PUFFS WERE COVERED IN MOLD! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR TASTE BUDS!?

THE VENISON ONES WERE ONLY SOLD THAT YEAR!

I STILL HAVEN'T FORGIVEN YOU FOR PUTTING TREADS ON THE REFRIGERATOR AND MAKING IT RUN AWAY!

4

カ"

GAAA (WHIRR)

I'M DONE BEING A FRIDGE.

GIVE ME BACK MY HALF-EATEN CREAM PUFFS!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?

OHH?

YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS, AND THAT'S WHY THIS HAPPENS!

YOU'RE SO OVER-SERIOUS, BUT YOU'RE ALSO WAY TOO EMOTIONAL.

...I MEAN...

...YOU WENT TO AMENOTORI.

HEY.

...ARE YOU KURAMA HAZAMA?

I HEAR MY EYE WAS SAVED BECAUSE OF YOUR ORGAN TRANSPLANT TECHNOLOGY.

THERE IS A PLACE WHERE A GENIUS SUCH AS YOURSELF CAN RESEARCH TO HER HEART'S CONTENT.

IT'S A WONDERFUL PLACE WHERE YOU CAN MOLD PEOPLE TO ANY SHAPE YOU LIKE.

IT'S A VERY INTERESTING THEME.

"WE SHOULD LIMIT THE EXPANSION OF OUR CIVILIZATION TO IMPROVING THE HUMAN BODY AS A WHOLE."

THE MAGATAMA FACTOR THAT I AM RESEARCHING...

...WILL SUPPRESS REJECTION OF ANY AND ALL ORGANIC TRANSPLANTS.

THAT HARDLY SOUNDS BELIEVABLE...

...WE CAN...

WITH YOUR RESEARCH...

I'LL LET YOU COME TO YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS AFTER YOU SEE THE DATA.

...SAVE THE WORLD.

STILL, IT'S A TEMPTING OFFER, ISN'T IT?

YINGHUA'S BODY...!?

!?

WA PA PA

DINER

WE STILL HAVEN'T SUPPRESSED THE ACTIVE MAGATAMA.

CALM YOURSELVES, BLACK DEMONS.

PI (BEEP) PI

HER CELLS WERE ALREADY TRANSFORMING BEFORE WE SHOT.

SHE'S TURNING INTO A SPIDER ...!?

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER, YOU AMENOTORI BASTARDS!?

MEKI (KRRK)

...!

DID SHE SHOW ANY SYMPTOMS?

OR TAKE ANY MEDICINES?

KA (CLACK)

YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THE NEWS.

AS YOU WOULD PUT IT, THEY TURN INTO SPIDERS.

AMENOTORI TRANSPLANTS HAVE A SIDE EFFECT THAT OCCURS ABOUT 0.2 PERCENT OF THE TIME.

"SPIDER TRANSFOR-MATION."

BUT NOW THAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT AND LEFT TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED TRANSPLANTS.

I SEE A SPIDER WITH A PROPERLY BALANCED PREFRONTAL CORTEX AS THE NEXT STEP IN HUMAN EVOLUTION, BUT LET'S SET THAT ASIDE FOR NOW.

THIS DRUG IS WHAT'S CAUSING IT.

THIS NEW PANDEMIC IS NOTHING BUT A BIO-WEAPON.

SIGN: MANILA HOSPITAL

馬尼可醫院

メキ.
MEKI (KRIK)
MEKI
メキ!!!

THE REAL PROBLEM IS THE DRUG THEY'RE HANDING OUT.

EE!?
WAAA!
MEGIKI (KRRK)
メキ!!

AMENOTORI

THE PANDEMIC IS JUST AN ARTIFICIAL ACT OF TERRORISM ORCHESTRATED TO GET THE DRUG IN CIRCULATION.

Tolong! (PLEASE!)

Astaga! (OH MY GOD!)

Lari! (RUN!)

THE DRUG CONTAINS A STRONGER VERSION OF THE MAGATAMA FACTOR.

Gh

ZH

AH-
AHH.

IF YOU GET OUTSIDERS INVOLVED, WE CAN'T GET A PROPER TIMELINE ASSESSMENT.

ONCE THE DRUG IS ABSORBED, THE RATE OF SPIDER TRANSFORMATION IS MORE OR LESS...

...ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.

THE PRESIDENT OF AMENOTORI, UTSUWA MUNOMIYA...

...HAS ENGINEERED A GLOBAL CATASTROPHE.

PAKI (CRAW)

THE EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD ARE THE WORST POSSIBLE OUTCOME.

SPIDER PANDEMIC

.....

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BIG DEAL...

I CAN'T SEEM TO DEACTIVATE THE MAGATAMA.

PI (BEEP) PI

KURAMA-SAMA.

ZAWA (MURMUR)

NO WAY...

PASHU (PSSHT)

CELLULAR SEQUENCE DELTA CONVER-SION.

FORCED DEGRADATION... I'M SHUTTING IT DOWN.

KACHI (CLICK)

DAMMIT! THIS STUFF IS JUST TOO DAMNED STRONG...

PORO (CRUMBLE)

EVEN DEAD...

...IT'LL BE EASIER TO HOLD HER FUNERAL IF SHE'S IN HER PREVIOUS FORM...

.....

...YOU'RE NOT INVOLVED IN THE PANDEMIC?

...YOU'RE HERE TO JOIN FORCES...?

THEN...

PUSHUU (FSSHH)

They're... not... enemies...?

I HATE ALL OF YOU. BOTH MY BROTHER AND HIS JACKALOPE TEAMMATES.

BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY IN A SPOT TO BE CHOOSY HERE.

LET ME USE THAT STUPID GENIUS BRAIN OF YOURS.

I'LL WAIT TO DRAG YOU DOWN TO HELL...

...UNTIL AFTER WE'VE SAVED THE REST OF THE WORLD FROM HELL.

...THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY.

HUH?

.....

WHAT?

DON'T LOOK SO HAPPY. ARE YOU GONNA WORK WITH THIS GORGEOUS GENIUS OR NOT?

...SINCE YOU LEFT.

THAT'S THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW CREAM PUFFS I'VE PUT IN THE FRIDGE...

...

WHY DID YOU JUST HIT ME, NEE-CHAN!?

THIS, AFTER ALL THAT!?

BECAUSE YOU'RE A DUMBASS!

GAGON (THWACK)

Doc!!

.....

SO YOU'RE AN UNEMPLOYED GENIUS?

...

BY THE WAY, I LEFT AMENOTORI.

YOU'RE GONNA REGRET THAT.

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL START.

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

#38

KIN (SHING)

SHUPO (FWOOSH)

DOSA (FLUMP)

.....

I'M DEFINITELY PRETTY TIRED AFTER USING MY GEARS AT FULL THROTTLE OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

BLEH!

KOFF!

IS HE CRAZY?

HOW IN THE WORLD DOES AKUTA-NII FIND THESE RELAXING?

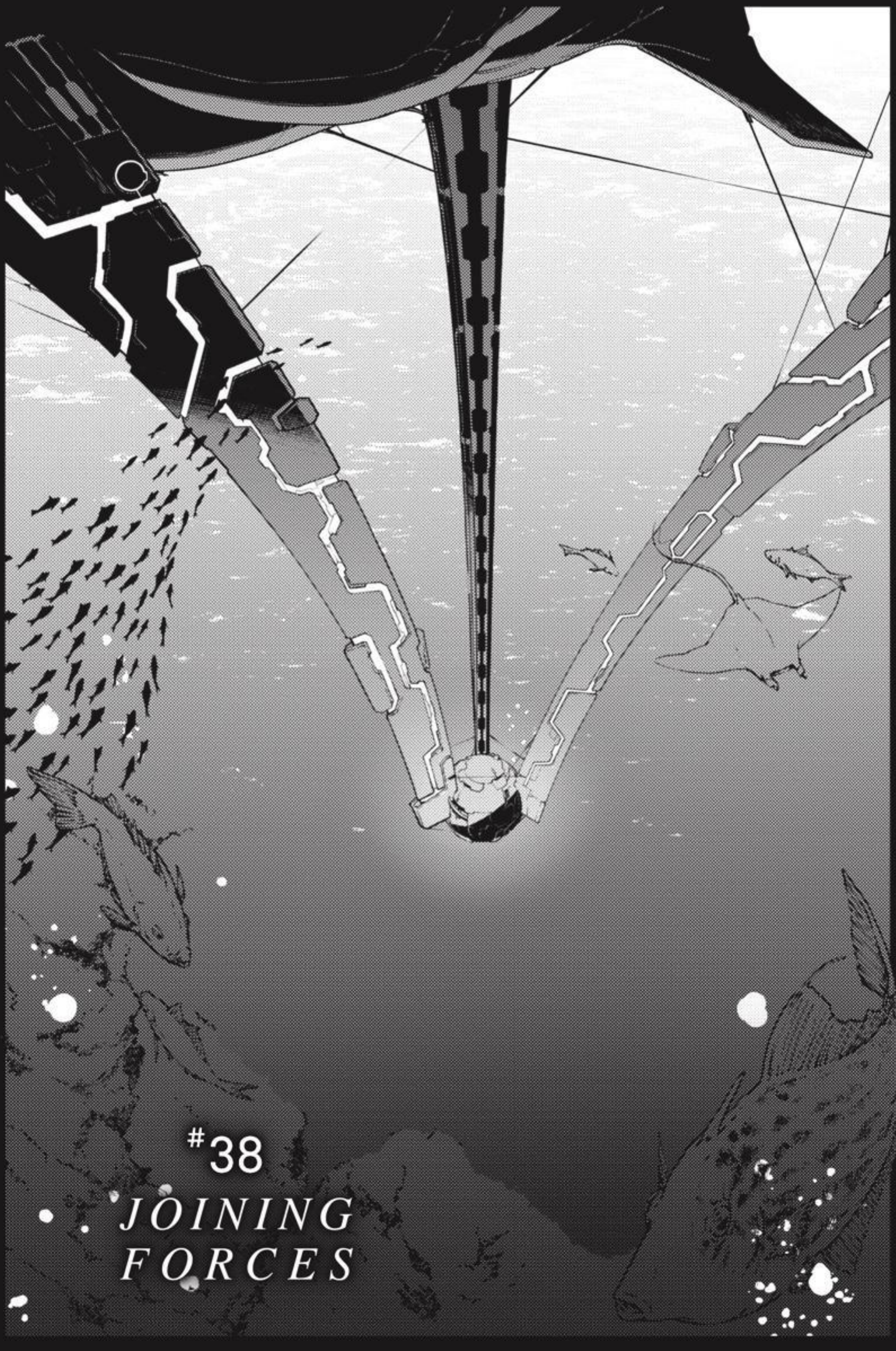
KOFF! HAGK!

AMENOTORI

GOLD

Starry sky

PASHA (SPLASH)



#38
JOINING FORCES

BAN (BAM)

I'M BEAT!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? THE SPIDERS JUST KEEP COMING!

...THIS IS...

...DA FUK? YOU'RE HERE?

CLACK!

AKUTA! WAIT, WAIT, WAAAIT!

WHOA!

WHOA!

NO, SHE'S THE ENEMY.

WOW!

I NEED TO GET DATA ON NEE-CHAN'S REFLEXES!

HUH?

SHE'S KIND OF ON OUR SIDE RIGHT NOW!

DAMN YOU.

WHA!?

That's our top priority.

...WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO STOP THE SPIDER PANDEMIC.

—SO...

LET ME JUST DRUG HIM UP A LITTLE!

CALM DOWN.

WE HAVE TO WORK WITH THEMMM?

DA FUK ...?

KEEP OUT KEEP OUT

KEEP OUT

DO WE SABOTAGE THE SHIPPING ROUTES?

SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT?

SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT AMENOTORI'S DRUG BEING INEFFECTIVE TO THE MEDIA IN A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT LANGUAGES?

BEFORE WE COME UP WITH A PLAN FOR THAT, WE NEED TO STOP THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRUG.

YEAH.

GARAN (CLATTER)

Doomsday clock

164days

BUT EVEN THEN, THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK IS AT JUST FOUR MONTHS.

THERE'S JUST... ONE PLAN IN THE END.

WE HAVE TO FAST-TRACK A VIRUS...

...TO COUNTERACT THE MAGATAMA FACTOR BEFORE IT CAN FORM SPIDERS.

IT MIMICS THE HUMAN IMMUNE SYSTEM.

COPY?

—THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE CAN'T EXACTLY PIN DOWN THE MAKEUP OF THE MAGATAMA FACTOR'S DNA.

THIS IS ACTUALLY WHAT I NEED YOUR HELP WITH.

WHEN WE TRY TO ANALYZE IT, WE'RE FINDING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHICH PARTS ARE REAL AND WHICH ARE MIMICKED.

***Homo Sapiens* Genome**

MAGATAMA Genome

MIMICRY...

SO THAT'S WHY THE RESULTS WERE ALL OVER THE PLACE WHENEVER I TRIED TO ANALYZE THE SPIDERS...

?

SO MUCH GOBBLEDY-GOOK.

BUT THAT SHOT YOU GAVE YINGHUA-SAN EARLIER...

...MADE JUST THE SPIDER PARTS OF HER GO AWAY.

IF WE MAKE LOTS OF THIS...

IF WE USED THIS SYRINGE OR THE GEARS...

...TO KILL EACH SPIDER ONE BY ONE, ANOTHER THOUSAND WOULD SPRING UP AS WE DID IT, AIRHEAD.

YOU ARE A SPIDER, SO THIS WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS FOR YOU. NO!

PASHIN (SNATCH)

OW!

SERIOUSLY, CAN I TAKE OUT JUST ONE OF THESE PRICKS?

THAT WOULD DELAY THE END OF THE WORLD BY A WHOLE MINUTE AND TWENTY SECONDS. HOW WONDERFUL.

NAH, I CAN TAKE ON SEVEN OF 'EM AT ONCE!

YEAH.

FIGHTING THEM HEAD-ON WOULD BE COMPLETELY POINTLESS...

FOR NOW, I'LL GATHER THE DATA NECESSARY TO PURSUE THE VACCINE ROUTE...

(BI (BEEP)

HM?

Doomsday clock

021 days

!!?

THE REMAINING TIME'S BEEN CUT TO...!?

THIS IS BAD... WHAT THE...?

NH? AND?

THERE ARE 522 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN THE E.U...

Amenotori medi

THE E.U. JUST APPROVED THE EXTRA-STRENGTH MAGATAMA DRUG FOR DISTRIBUTION!

PI (BEEP)

PI

PROGRAMMING IN THE PROJECTED SPREAD OF THE PANDEMIC...

THE SPIDERS ARE SUDDENLY MULTIPLYING AT AN EVEN GREATER RATE!

KATA

KATA

KATA

KATA

CCLACK

WHAT'S THE MAXIMUM TIME LIMIT WE CAN EXPECT!?

RECALCU-LATE THE POINT WHERE SOCIETY COMPLETELY COLLAPSES!

.....

...KURAMA-SAMA.

PI

00000980

PI

THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE DEAD IN THREE WEEKS.

WHO KNOWS?

BUT...

...?

I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT'S GOING ON.

WAH! THAT SCARED ME!

GASHA (SMASH)

PI (BEEP)

BIRI (CRACKLE)

BIRI

A COMPULSORY EMERGENCY CALL!?

...LOOKS LIKE WE'RE AT A DEAD END.

I am broadcasting this message to all Jackalopes and their associates.

Any of you at the branch locations, set your receivers to visual communi-cation.

Any Gears who can move, report to the basement of the main base at once.


2

BOSS.

WERE YOU LISTENING IN THIS WHOLE TIME? HOW UNLADYLIKE.

...SO THIS...

...IS LADY EMMA.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO PASS ON ALL OF THIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF AMENOTORI?

HH?...

ZAWA (MURMUR)

DOES THE BOSS HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO AMENOTORI?

HH?...

ZAWA

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

?

A CONNECTION TO AMENOTORI?

OF COURSE I HAVE ONE.

DON'T GET SNAPPY WITH ME, DOC.

THE JACKALOPES HAVE ALWAYS...

...BEEN A BRANCH OF AMENOTORI, CREATED WITH THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF SUPPRESSING THE SIDE EFFECT OF THEIR TREATMENT, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SPIDERS.

OH...

SO THE SHIKAGURA WERE STOPPED BECAUSE IT WAS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST...

WHA ...?

...!?

THERE IS NO NEED FOR JUSTIFICATION WHEN WORKING FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

THE EASIEST WAY TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM OF THE SPIDERS...

...WAS TO ACT AS IF THEY WERE THE ENEMY. THAT IS ALL.

HOWEVER, AMENOTORI HAS SPIRALED OUT OF CONTROL.

KAN (CLANG)

I DON'T WISH TO BE MISUNDER-STOOD. THERE'S NO TIME.

ZURU (DRAG)

...YOU MAY ALL MAKE YOUR JUDGMENTS AFTER YOU SEE.

ZA

ZA (FWISH)

ZA

ZA

ZA

VUN (VWUMM

MEMENTO CAMPANELLA

!

...FROM WHEN HE WAS STILL JUST A YOUNG MAN STUDYING SCIENCE WHO ALSO HAPPENED TO BE THE FOUNDER OF A SMALL CULT.

AND I...WAS JUST A SIMPLE RESEARCHER WHO THOUGHT THE MAGATAMA WE DISCOVERED IN THE ANTARCTIC WAS THE SAME AS ANY OTHER ANCIENT BACTERIA.

古細菌門

マガタマ

THE INITIAL RESEARCH ON THE MAGATAMA ...!

HEY!

SOME OF THIS STUFF IS SO CONFIDENTIAL, EVEN I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

THIS IS OLD DATA.

ACCESS

He began his career as a police officer where he held several posts and positions until

SINCE YOU WERE IN LEAGUE WITH AMENOTORI...

...THAT MUST MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE THE DATA TO FIGHT THE PANDEMIC.

WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GO OVER OLD STORIES.

I REALLY DO WANNA SEE IT, THOUGH.

KACHI (CLICK)

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING HERE...

AMENOTORI

OH...

A... File

A...mp4

VLIN (VMM)

THE DATA I DO HAVE IS MINIMAL.

WE WEREN'T EVEN A BLIP ON AMENOTORI'S RADAR.

OUR INITIAL RESEARCH CONCLUDED THAT THE MAGATAMA WOULD BRING "EUSOCIALITY."

eusociality

XADATA 9921
XADATA 1211
XADATA 2460
REDATA 4930
REDATA 6874

AND?

I KNOW WHAT THE MAGATAMA WAS NATURALLY INCLINED TO DO...

...BEFORE AMENOTORI ALTERED IT FOR COMMERCIAL USE.

THE MAGATAMA AMENOTORI HAS BEEN SPREADING AROUND IS MUCH LIKE A WORKER BEE.

Queen

A PARTICULAR SOCIAL MODEL SEEN IN ORGANISMS SUCH AS BEES.

ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS SIMPLY OBEY HER ORDERS.

THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL CAPABLE OF REPRODUCING BACK AT THE NEST IS THE COMMANDER, THE QUEEN.

Worker

YES.

...!

DOES THE MAGATAMA ALSO HAVE A COMMANDER ...!?

BEES...I'M PRETTY SURE IF THE QUEEN BEE LEAVES THE HIVE...

THE QUEEN IS DEAD!

...ALL THE WORKER BEES LOSE THEIR FACULTIES, AND THE ENTIRE HIVE COLLAPSES... RIGHT?

TOTAL CHAOS!

THE COLONY'S DONE FOR!

THEY COULD STOP THE SPIDER PANDEMIC!

—IN OTHER WORDS

IF SOMEONE GETS AHOLD OF THE ONE AND ONLY QUEEN BEE OF THE MAGATAMA...

...THAT PERSON WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL ALL SPIDERS EVERYWHERE.

...I SEE. SO WE NEED...

...TO FIND THE HEAD SPIDER...

...AND FLIP THE SWITCH?

Is that really possible ...?

IF THIS INFORMATION IS TRUE...

...THEN THE CHANCES ARE NON-ZERO.

IT'S BETTER ODDS THAN THE VACCINE PLAN.

BOKEE (DAZED)

WE'RE NOT REALLY CUT OUT FOR THIS COMPLICATED STUFF...

TAKE A LOOK AT HIM.

HMM?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THIS BOSS IS?

SOMEWHERE TOUGH TO GET AT, WHERE YOU'LL NEED THOSE OF US WHO AREN'T THE BRAINS OF THE OPERATION...

...RIGHT?

...AS FAR AS I KNOW...

KOPO (BUBBLE)

...THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN CONTROL THE ORIGINAL MAGATAMA—THE QUEEN BEE—

—ARE THE FEW WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH THE ORIGINAL RESEARCH.

AND THE ONE PERSON WHO HAS CONTINUED TO USE AND EXPAND THAT RESEARCH...

...IS THE WARPED EMPTY VESSEL—

PRESIDENT OF AMENOTORI, THE COMPANY FOCUSED ON HUMAN EVOLUTION, UTSUWA MUNOMIYA.

HE HOLDS ALL OF THE KEYS—

KACHI (CLICK)

Sequence preview File Edit Audio Output Help

TIME CODE 00:12:09

WHY DID THAT GAGARA GUY HAVE THIS...?

I HAVE TO STOP BEING SUCH A WUSS AND JUST WATCH IT...

THIS ISN'T GETTING ME ANYWHERE.

WHAT'S WITH THIS BIRD...?

AN AMENOTORI PROMOTIONAL VIDEO...?

mpany Overview

1. Above all, our

refron

e study

Amenotori is committed to fulfilling all of your needs.

Allow me to show you a summary of the results of our research, born from the constant innovation that is at the core of our company.

Heaven's
Gate 114

Duplication of the original magatama (type α) is impossible.

Mass production of type β through application of stimulus successful.

Manifestation of chimera cells.
—72% significance.

Human transplant test subjects (243 of each race, aged 8-15).

Time-lapse of cultivation cells after fragmenting type α nucleus.

KACHI (CLICK)

RAW DATA

CUT FOOTAG
EXP 0903

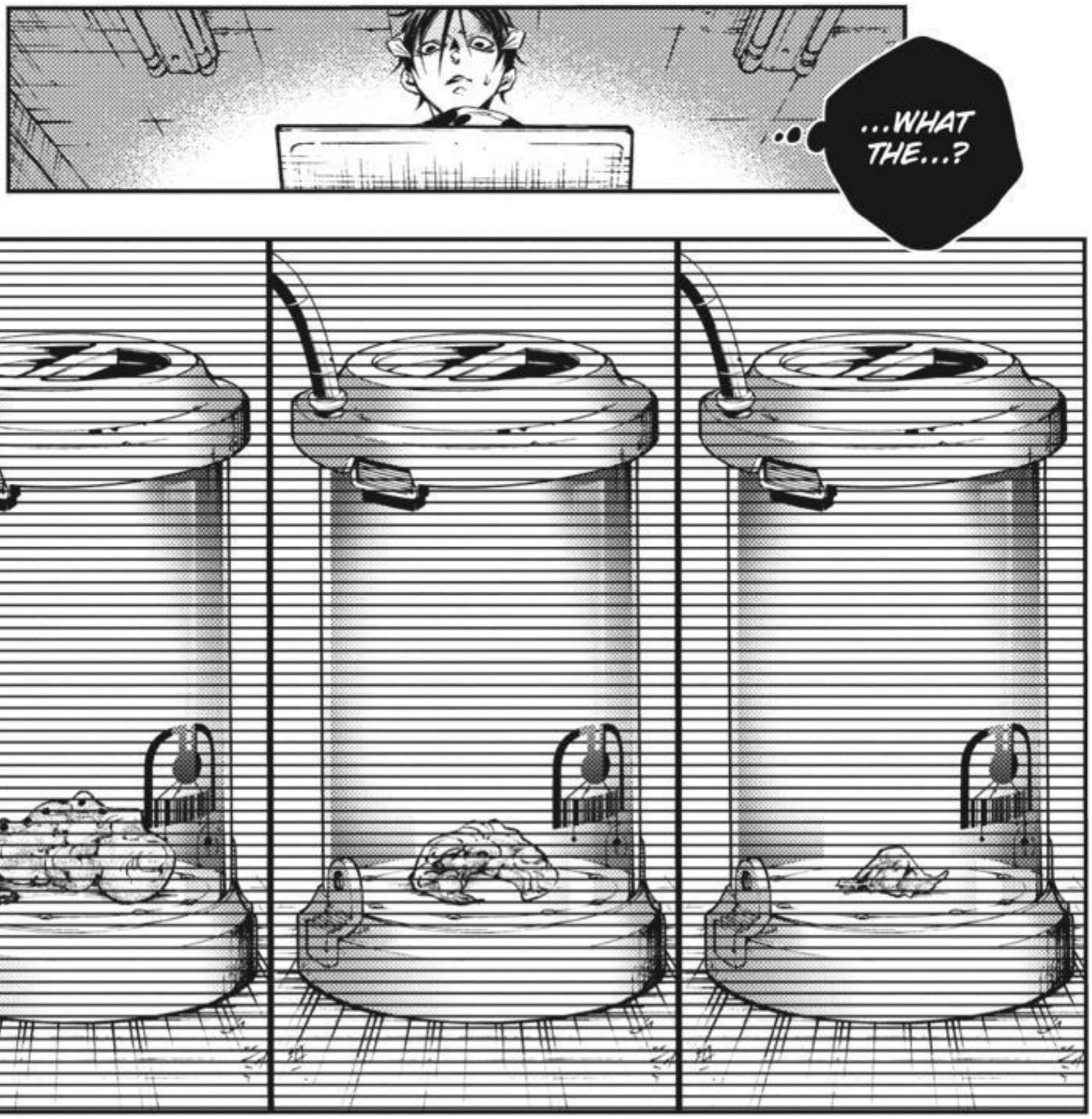
MAGATAMA
ECIAL ANCIENT
BACTERIUM)
TEST STATE

vol.99064

!

THERE WAS ONE OF THESE FACILITIES UP NORTH...

ARE THERE A BUNCH OF THEM?


...WHAT THE...?


THAT'S...

Bred specimens not growing

Failure (207433)
—No significance.
—Destroyed.

PIKU (TWITCH)

HE CONTINUES TO COMMIT TABOOS BY MANIPULATING LIFE AS IF HE WERE A GOD.

HE HAS CONSTRUCTED A VERITABLE CITADEL, WHICH HE HAS NAMED AFTER THE SHIP OF THE GODS.

HEH.

.....

SO WE HAVE TO JUMP INTO THE EPICENTER OF THE DISASTER IN THE MIDDLE OF A PANDEMIC?

WE WILL WORK WITH YOU, BUT THE SECURITY AT AMENOTORI IS BEYOND ANYTHING YOU MIGHT EXPECT.

PLEASE BE PREPARED FOR EIGHTY PERCENT OF YOU TO DIE.

.....

OH!

YOU FINALLY STARTED TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING I GET!

!!!

I CANNOT COMPEL YOU.

HOWEVER, IF YOU CANNOT STAND TO SEE PEOPLE DRIVEN TO A MEANINGLESS END, THEN THE BEST PATH FORWARD IS TO FIGHT TOGETHER.

THE FATE OF HUMANITY RESTS IN THE HANDS OF THOSE STANDING HERE TODAY.

THIS CAUSE IS WORTH GIVING YOUR LIVES. YOU MUST FIND THE TARGET AND GET THE KILL. IF YOU CANNOT COMMIT YOURSELF, THEN REMOVE YOUR HORN AND LEAVE AT ONCE.

BAN (BA-BAM)

OKAY.

I'M IN.

KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE: "BEAT UP THE BAD GUYS!"

HE'S NOT WRONG.

"...GEARS TURN."

...

"LET THE UNRUSTING...

.....

GU (CLENCH) N"!!

HA!

SO THE MONSTERS OF JUSTICE PREFER A BLOOD-SOAKED HAPPY ENDING, HUH?

"KILL YOUR HEART.

"THEN KILL THEM.

"BLOW AWAY THE SMOKE OF BLOOD WITH NINETY-SEVEN-DEGREE STEAM."

THE JACKALOPE PARADE!!

Hide!

A PARADE OF OUTLAW DEMONS!!

Die!!

OUCH...?

OW.

?

WHEN THAT THING BROKE, SOMETHING HIT ME HERE...

GASHA (SMASH)

"IT MADE JUST THE SPIDER PARTS OF HER GO AWAY."

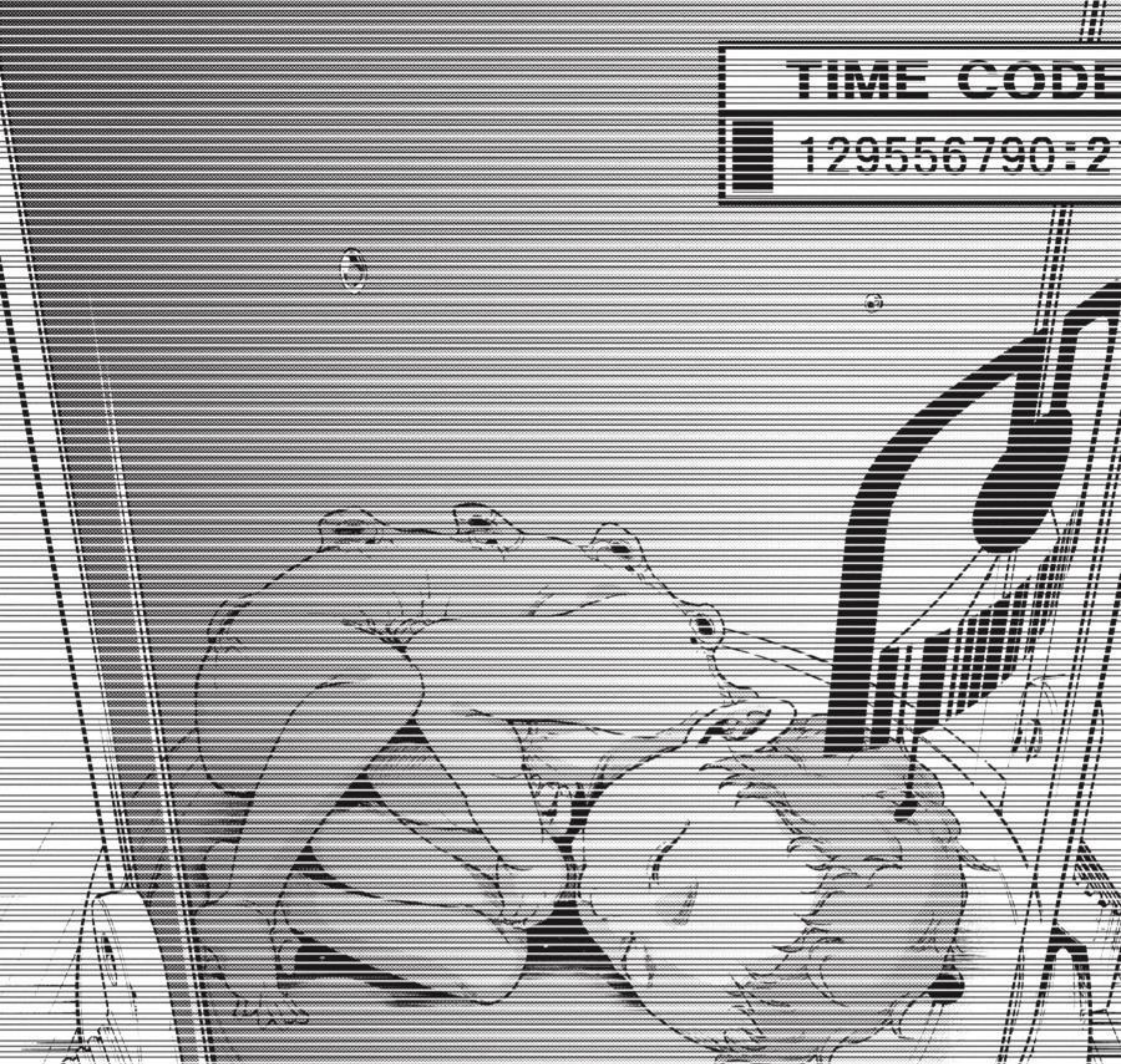


松建設



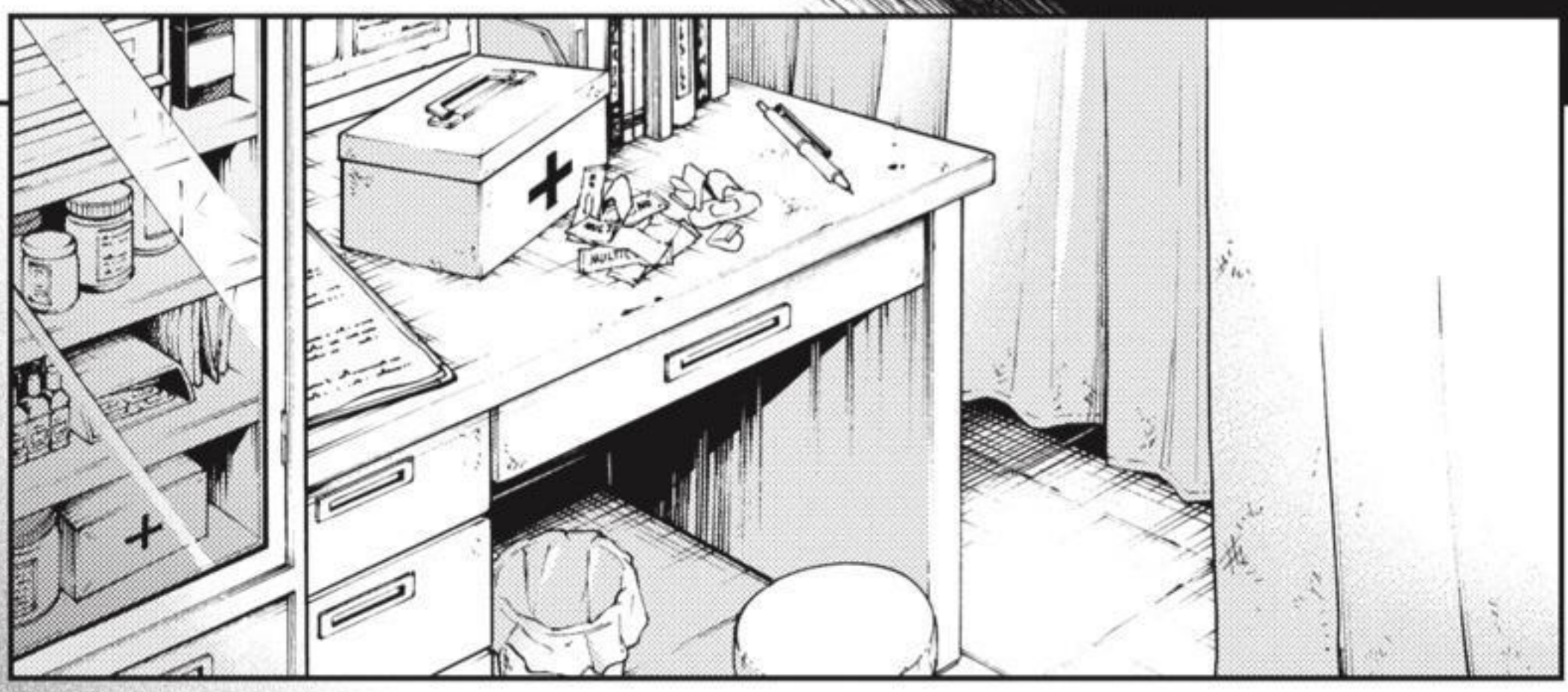
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RED HAIR...



NAH, I'M FINE.

GACHA (KACHAK)

YOU HURT? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HM?

WHAT'S WRONG, ONII-CHAN?

HEYYY.

DOC-SAN IS LOOKING FOR YOUUU. HE'S POWERING UP EVERYONE'S WEAPONS OR SOMETHING.




IT'S NOTHING.
I THINK.
BAND-AID
BAND-AID
BAND-AID

SMOKIN' PARADE

SMOKIN' PARADE

ROUGH SKETCHES



KAMURO-CHAN

•A QUASI-HUMAN CLONE MADE FROM PARTS LEFT OVER FROM THE MATERIALS BROUGHT TO AMENOTORI FACTORIES.







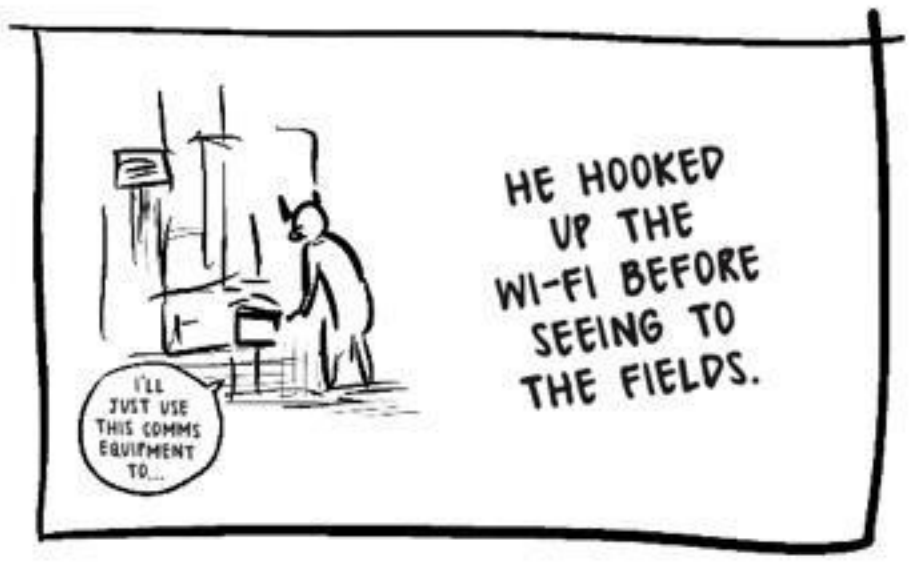
HEAVEN'S GATE 901





SHE'S REALLY BORED WHEN SHE ISN'T THE LORD.





HAVE A SMOKIN' HAPPY LIFE!

SMOKIN' PARADE #08

By Jinsei Kataoka, Kazuma Kondou

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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9

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKING PARADE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

BAKI (SNAP)

POLICE


SMOKIN' PARADE
#39
A BATTLE OF WITS
SMOKIN' PARADE
JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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WE MUST STOP THIS MAN-MADE SPIDER PANDEMIC!

THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.

THE SPIDERS ARE MULTIPLYING AT AN EXPONENTIAL RATE.

THE CONTROLLING POWER OF THE ORIGINAL MAGATAMA!

...IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT OF AMENOTORI.

OUR ONE AND ONLY HOPE...

AMENOTORI

OUR NUMBERS MAY BE LIMITED, BUT WITH OUR SUPERIOR INTELLECT AND POWER...

...WE'RE GOING TO STORM AMENOTORI HEAD-QUARTERS!

JACKALOPE

IN OUR STEAM-POWERED TRUCK! IT'S KILL OR DIE!

KIKI (SCREECH)

POPOOO (HOOONK)

.....

The problem is...

...how do we get the truck out to an island that's a hundred klicks offshore?

CAN'T WE JUST HIJACK ONE OF THE BOATS HERE?

AH?

NO, WE CAN'T.

AH-PA!

I'VE NEVER SWUM BEFURE, BUT I'LL SWIM IT!

COULD SOMEONE PUSH THAT BUTTON OVER THERE FOR MEEE? I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL MODDING ALL THESE GEARS.

HMM.

POCHI (BOOP)

BUTTON?

GATAN (KA-THUNK)

?

BASHUN (FWOOSH)

KACHIN (CLICK)

BASHU

JAKO (CLANK)

WHOA! THE WHEELS!!

DOPAA (SPLASH)

WHOOOA!

WOW! IT'S AMPHIBI-OUS!?

HYUUUU (WHOOSH)

WE'RE MOVING!

DO

DO (PUFF)

DO

DO

GON

GON (VRRN)

YEAH!

...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE'RE TRYING TO HAVE FUN.

...HA.

GON

GON (VRRM)

YOU LOT SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOUR-SELVES.

THIS MAY BE A ONE-WAY TRIP...

AMENOTORI SPECIAL ECONOMIC MARITIME REGION

♪

♫LARK, SWEET LARK! ♫LARK!

♫I WILL PLUCK YOU BARE!

PI (BEEP)

LO

KYUIII (WHIRR)

I WILL PLUCK YOUR FEATHERED CREST! ♪

AND YOUR BEAK! ♪

♪AND YOUR NECK!

DELETE

MY OLD WORKPLACE SHOULD BE COMING INTO VIEW ANY MINUTE NOW.

KONOSHI WARD IS SEEING INCREASED ACTIVITY.

FOUR SPIDERS REPORTED LURKING IN THE 07 CENTER.

MORE AMENOTORI DATA IS COMING IN.

YEAH.

HEADS UP, SHIRAMA.

THAT BUILDING'S AS BIG AS MOUNT FUJI.

OR MAYBE CALLING IT THE TOWER OF BABEL WOULD BE MORE FITTING?

IS THAT AN ISLAND, A MOUNTAIN, OR A BUILDING...?

IT'S HUUUGE!

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL IS A HUNDRED AND FIFTY METERS HIGH, BUT THIS IS EIGHT TIMES TALLER THAN THAT.

IT'S JUST AS BIG AS OKINOSHIMA ISLAND.

IT'S BEEN CLASSIFIED IN SUCH A WAY TO ENSURE IT CAN'T BE CLAIMED BY ANY NATION, BUT IT'S CLEARLY THE TALLEST MAN-MADE STRUCTURE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

IT'S JUST TOO MUCH. I CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND IT...

NAH.

YOU WANT SOMETHING TO EAT?

YOU OKAY, ONII-CHAN?

I'M NOT HUNGRY...

PI
PI
(BEEP)
Three...
Four.
Five seconds until we make landfall.
DON
(WHAM)
!?
A WALL...!?
ZUGOGO
(GRIND)
OUR JAMMING'S NOT HAVING ANY EFFECT...
THIS IS BAD...

GON (KA-CHUNK)

THE AMENOTORI SECURITY SYSTEM KICKED IN!!

GON

GO

GO

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS OVER-THE-TOP TRAP!?

BAN (THOOM)

WE'RE BOXED IN...!

PI

WHAT THE...?

LOOK AT THE BUILDING'S COORDINATES...

!?

DAMMIT! ONE OF THE DISTANT EARLY-WARNING CONTAINMENT TRAPS! THAT'S CLEVER!

PI (BEEP) PI

Main power

During startup

Power 94%

The output is continuously increasing

924 seconds until emergency stop device is engaged

MAIN SYSTEMS OPERATIONAL.

GOLIN

OUTPUT AT 27,000 HORSEPOWER. SPEED, THIRTY-TWO KNOTS.

DISENGAGING LOCK ZERO-NINE-SEVEN. RELEASING ANCHOR ON THE FALSE DECK.

BASHU (FSSH)

BASHU

GOLIN

GOLIN (WHOOM)

THE UNKNOWN VESSEL HAS BEEN CON-TAINED.

THE BUGS CAME CRAWLING OUT FAR EARLIER THAN WE EXPECTED.

WE'RE STILL FIFTY-THREE HOURS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, BUT BEGIN THE OPERATION ANYWAY!

GOLIN

DO (RUMBLE)
DO
DO
DO
...ARE READY TO OVERSEE THE END OF THE WORLD! ♪
WE HERE AT AMENOTORI...
GO (THUD)
YAWN...
WH—
WHAT THE HELL...?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH BUGS OR DEMONS.
GO
GO
GO
THE ISLAND'S FALLING APART...
GASHAN (KA-SHUNK)
SERI-OUSLY ...?
THAT'S WHAT IT REALLY IS...!?
AH!
I SEE... HE'S TRYING TO TAKE THE ROLE OF THE GODS FROM *RECORDS OF ANCIENT MATTERS.*

THE HEAVENLY BIRD BOAT— AME-NO-TORIFUNE...!



IT'S EVEN BIGGER THAN AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER...!!

NO WAY. COME ON!

A SHIP!?

DON'T JUST STAND AROUND GAWKING, RED!

GAN (SHOVE)

YOU GONNA LET MOBY DICK GET AWAY!!?

SHURURU (SLIDE)

TIME TO USE IT ALREADY, DOC!

I'M...

...GONNA GIVE *THIS BABY* A TEST DRIVE!

CHECK OUT THIS BEAST! THE NEW ROTTEN!

THE...

...ULTRA END MODEL GEAR!

BOGOA (BLAAAAM)

VICIOUS VERSION!

IT WENT THROUGH!

THE ENGINE IS AT THE REAR.

Click

DEPLOY!

DEPLOY!

HYU

HYU

HYU
GTHWIP)

BO
(THUNK)

BO

GOGON (BOOM)

SECOND PROPULSION SHAFT LOST!

I CAN'T LET THE PRESIDENT GET MAD AT ME! HE'LL HATE ME!

DAMN.

BA (WHOOSH)

SNCK.

GA

GA (DSHH)

DO

GA

DO (SHOONK)

HAVE TO ATTACH SOME STEEL TAILS TO THAT BEHIND!

CHUU

DEPLOY!

GASHA (CLANK)

NICE ONE, MIDARI-SAN!

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET GOING!

NEVER MIND! WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME!

GYARI (GRIND)

IT'S JUST GOING TO FALL APART!

I need more time!

I can't get the track stabilized!

GYA

GO, MY STEEL DEMONS!

WE CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO REGAIN THEIR COMPO-SURE.

GYA GYA

ZA (SHFF)

GAKIN (CHANK)

THE RESOURCE WE LACK MOST AT THE MOMENT IS TIME.

VERY WELL.

LET YOUR GEARS TURN!

LET'S GO!

GO, GO, GO!

SMOKIN' PARADE

#40

ZAN (SKSH)

FIND THE MAGATAMA!

YES, MA'AM !!

SMOKIN' PARADE

40

FAMILY BONDS

MAKE SURE YOU REPORT IN REGULARLY WITH EITHER A HORN OR A COMM DEVICE.

THE PATH SPLITS TO THE EAST AND THE WEST.

WATCH OUT FOR SECURITY.

THIS PLACE IS TOO BIG. I CAN'T TELL WHICH WAY IS EAST!

YES, MA'AM !!

CAN YOU TELL WHICH OF THE EXTERNAL CABLES ARE PART OF THE DRIVE?

Click.

GUIDE ME.

*FORMER EMPLOYEE

I DOUBT WE'LL STILL BE ABLE TO USE KURAMA-SAMA'S CODES...

HOWEVER, FIRST WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET IN.

THERE ARE FOUR ENTRANCES AND EXITS.

.....

DESPITE THE DANGER...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW DANGEROUS THAT IS!?

!?

YOU AREN'T GOING TO HACK IT DIRECTLY WITH YOUR BRAIN, ARE YOU!?

...I MUST STOP HIM.

THAT IS THE REASON I AM HERE.

THE EAST GATE

GAKIN (CLANG)

TAAAKE...

...THIS!

DAMMIIIT! STILL NOTHING!

WHAT IS THIS THING MADE OF?

ARGH!

THIS SHIP IS A TOTAL ***MONSTER!***

BIKU (FLINCH)

.....

...HEY, MIRAI.

...DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU TURNED INTO THAT BUNNY HEAD?

...!

...HEY.

SOMETHING HAPPENED, DIDN'T IT, ONII-CHAN?

NAH...

...NO BIGGIE.

I'M PRETTY SURE IT ONLY TURNED OUT AS WELL AS IT DID BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO YOU.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE YOU A GOOD MEAL...

I'M... REALLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT!

...? SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S GOING—

!

—NOT LIKE ME...

YOU WERE ALWAYS NORMAL, EVEN WITHOUT ALL THE FAMILY RULES.

MIRAI!

GA (YANK)

ZU (REACH)

EEEE!?

ZO (CREEP)

ZO

ZO

SPIDERS !?

HE'S ONLY INTERESTED IN DEALING WITH PAYING CUSTOMERS.

SO WE HAVE TO EXTERMINATE ANY BUGS WHO MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THE FINAL DISTRIBUTION.

THE WEATHER'S JUST LOVELY TODAY, WITH A NICE, COOL OCEAN BREEZE! BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY GOOD FOR THE SKIN, IS IT?

DO YOU BLACK-HORNED PARASITES WORRY ABOUT UV RAYS TOO?

THE PRESIDENT NEVER GOES OUTSIDE, SO HIS SKIN IS PERFECT! BABY SOFT AND FRAGRANT LIKE A FLOWER!

SO WE HAVE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING THERE !?

PI (BEEP) LO LO PI

HAS THE PANDEMIC EVEN SPREAD TO AMENOTORI HEADQUARTERS ...?

MY BEST.

MY BEST.

HEEEY THERE!

THAT'S ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S AIDES...!

SO YOU FINALLY SHOWED YOURSELF, YOU DAMN LOUD-MOUTHED, INTRUSIVE CAT...

KOMANEKO
THE GUARDIAN CAT
SPIDER TYPE: KUSHI MITAMA

WHY ARE ALL THE SPIDERS THE SAME...?

THIS COMPO-SITION...

I'LL DO MY BEST!

JUST HOW MANY OF THESE THINGS ARE THERE...?

I'LL DO MY BEST!

HE BRAINWASHED PRISONERS WITH "THE SAME DESIRES" IN ORDER TO CONTROL THEM!

!

...HE USED MY SHIKAGURA DATA FOR HIS EVIL...!

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!

DOCHA (SPLAT)

I'M GOING... ON BREAK.

I'M...

I—

DA (LEAP)

...CAN'T STAND YOU!

...I REALLY...

PIKIKI (CRACKLE)

...!

THAT BASTARD!

I'LL FILE MY COMPLAINT WITH THE FORCE OF AN EX-SHIKAGURA!

DON (WHLID)

WAAAAAA (CLAMOR)

NH!

GA CTHWACK

I'LL DO MY BEST!

I'LL DO MY MY MY—

YOU GOT SHIT FOR BRAINS OR SOMETHING!? THE HELL'RE YOU DOING!?

...SORRY.

IT'S NOTHING...

DON (BLAM)

...HA!

YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT SINCE THAT TIME YOU HAD A HOLE THROUGH YOUR CHEST.

"LYING PISSES ME OFF"!

KAMIJOU FAMILY RULE NUMBER SEVENTY-SIX—

DOKUN (BADUM)

ZZZD (ZZZD)

YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT TELLING BULLSHIT LIES.

I HAVE EIGHTEEN LEFT.

PROCEED TO SALVAGING A MAP OF THE SHIP.

I'VE FINISHED DECIPHERING TWENTY-FOUR OF THE CODES.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE REST OF THEM, BOSS?

GAAA (WHIRRR) H'——...

A MAP IS ESSENTIAL FOR ACQUIRING THE MAGATAMA.

THE DAMAGE TO YOUR MEDULLA OBLONGATA WILL INCREASE IN ANOTHER ELEVEN...

...PER-CE—

MROW!

AN OLD HAG HACKER WHO CAN'T EVEN WALK!

ANY NAUGHTY CHILDREN IN HEEEERE?

TOTALLY PAST IT! AND WRINKLED LIKE A PRUNE!

YOU'RE THAT GRANNY WHO'S ALWAYS HANGING AROUND THE PRESIDENT!

...OH, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

...DAMN. JUST A FEW MORE MOMENTS UNTIL I CAN TRANSFER THE DATA...

I THOUGHT YOU WENT OFF TO START UP THE JACKALOPES, BUT I GUESS YOU'RE JUST A TRAITOR IN THE END!

GABO (CHOMP)

BUCHI (SNAP)

DO (SLASH)

IGNORING PEOPLE IS MEAN, YOU KNOW!

LET'S HAVE A NICE LITTLE *CHAT!*

BUCHI

BUCHI

BUCHI

THE LINK'S DESTABI-LIZING.

BEEP

BEEP.

BOSS!? YOU ALL RIGHT?

HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU NEVER GET TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT AGAIN!

GA (CHOMP)

UGH...

BOSS!?

—I SAW IT THEN.

BACHIN

JI (RIP)

CONSTANT SUPPRESSION OF HIS SELF LED TO THAT PARTICULAR FORM OF MACHIAVELLIAN THOUGHT.

HIS ELEVATED LEVELS OF SYMPATHY —AND HIS DEPRESSED LEVELS OF NARCISSISM.

...YOUR AFTERNOON APPOINT-MENTS ARE HERE.

LORD VESSEL...

I SAW WHAT WAS WRONG WITH HIM.

THEN?

OR THEN?

OR THEN?

COULD I...HAVE STOPPED HIM?

OR THEN?

DID MY OWN COWARDICE AND INCOMPETENCE CAUSE ME TO CLOSE OFF MY EYES, EARS, AND MOUTH?

MROW!

BOSS!

SHUT UP, YOU WEAK LITTLE WORMS!

I WAS JUST A FRAIL, WEAK-WILLED OLD WOMAN.

WE WERE A COLLECTION OF WEAKLINGS.

THAT'S RIGHT.

Beginning compi-lation of the source code.

4

BAKIKI

AND THAT IS WHY I SHEATHED MYSELF IN STEEL.

BAKI

CCRACK

!

MEMENTO CAMPANELLA.

INVASION MODEL.

I NEVER OFFERED HIM ANY LULLABIES, MORAL GUIDANCE, OR EVEN LOVE...

...BUT IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AT LEAST OFFER HIM DEATH.

VUII (WHIRR)

THE WEAKEST AMONG US TOUGHEN UP THE MOST.

THAT IS THE ORGANIZATION OF HOPE I FOUNDED—THE JACKALOPES!

I HAVE NO TIME FOR A PSEUDO-CAT SPIRIT WHO DOES NOTHING BUT TALK.

DEPLOY.

PACHIN (CRACKLE)



EAST LOCK NUMBER TWO RELEASED!

GOGOLIN
GATHOOM

IT'S ONLY GONNA LAST FOR SEVEN HUNDRED MILLI-SECONDS!

GET THROUGH WHILE YOU CAN!

GOOD LUCK, ONII-CHAN!

EVERYONE CLOSEST TO THE DOOR, GET MOVING!

OOO (WHOOOSH)

ALL OTHER MEMBERS, STOP THE SPIDERS FROM GETTING THROUGH!

GO, YOU YOUNGSTERS.

AND YOU, RED-HEADED CHILD...

...DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED AGAIN.

SMOKIN' PARADE

#41

OBJECTIVE JUDGMENT



BACHIN
(SNIP)

チ

...UTSUWA-SAMA.

IT SEEMS KOMANEKO HAS FALLEN TO THE INTRUDERS.

BACHIN

POTO (PLOP)

EVEN AFTER EVERYTHING I DID TO MANIPULATE THAT RESEARCH?

OH WELL, I GUESS HE'S FREE TO DIE.

BACHIN

HMM?

...PERHAPS YOU SHOULD PUT ON SOME CLOTHES SO YOU DON'T CATCH COLD?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. CLOTHES.

ACHOO!

SORRY.

I REALIZE WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN.

BUT I WANTED TO DO SOME DECORATING FOR THE PARTY.

...MY NOSE IS SENSITIVE TO THE POLLEN.

HA HA.

...ACHOO!

I JUST WANT THEM TO BE FREE TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.

BUT MY CUSTOMERS HAVE A LOT OF HANG-UPS, SO I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT HOW I SERVE THEM.

...OH, THAT.

...YOU'RE HANDLING MATTERS IN QUITE A ROUND-ABOUT WAY.

THAT'S WHAT BEING A SPIDER IS ALL ABOUT.

YOU...

...CAN DO AS YOU LIKE TOO, YOU KNOW.

ALL I DESIRE...

...IS YOUR COMMAND.

<Do not let any of the monsters that were the locals onto the base!>

<Keep up the patrols!>

<Sir! There's a message coming through on the top secret channel.>

<Very well.>

DO (BLAM)

DORARA (BRRRAP)

DO

DO

WAAA (CLAMOR)

Bang!

TATATA (RAT-TAT)

...RETINAL SCAN...

VOICEPRINT...

...AND VEIN PATTERNS...

...CONFIRMED.

KACHI (CLICK)

U.Korschi | USSR.A | M

<All of you are top leaders who have endorsed our current plans.>

<Welcome to the final party.>

<Yes.>

<Your plan to decrease population totals has been a huge success.>

<It's been difficult keeping up with everyone else.>

<They've already announced the end of the program over in the country of C—— .>

<Yes, well...>

<I confess, I've had some pressure to act due to my wife's beliefs.>

<We intend to keep the monster pandemic going for a week.>

<We won't be able to control the markets for any longer than that.>

OFFLINE

<So today, you'll finally...>

<...give us our way to avoid becoming monsters ourselves... correct?>

<Of course.>

OFFLINE

<Please take the drinks I sent you earlier and mix the ones labeled "B" and "C" at a ratio of one to two.>

<Hm? What about vial "A"?>

<That is a decoy. It's a matter of trust.>

<Those who drank them all ahead of time or failed to mix them properly...>

<Well...>

<...it seems they could no longer be with us.>

OFFLINE

OFFLINE

<.....>

<This is the final result.>

THE MAP'S LIKE THE MAP OF THE OSAKA SUBWAY SYSTEM.

SO YOU CAN'T READ IT?

HUH!?

NOW WHICH WAY DO WE GO?

IF THE MAGATAMA SMELLS LIKE DUMPLINGS, THEN I'M SURE I CAN SNIFF IT OUT.

IT'S NOT FOOD.

BORK!

01

02

03

IT'S SOMEWHERE DEEPER INSIDE...

...BUT EVERYTHING... LEADS TO DEAD ENDS.

LET'S LEAVE IT TO CHANCE!

OUR LUCK'S GONNA BE EITHER GOOD OR BAD.

HO

P.I (BEEP)

GAN CWHAMD

AND ALL THESE DAMN DOORS ARE LOCKED!

PUSHU (PSSHT)

LEAVE IT TO ME!

CLICK

LOOKS LIKE IT'S BAD!

YOU LET THE SPIDERS IN.

CAN (THUD)

THAT SCARED ME!

PIIIII (FWEEEEE)

EATJAM, THE STOMACH GEAR, BLADE EYE VERSION!

PLUMP-PLOY!

HUH? PLUMP!?

I'LL MYY DO!

BEST MYY-

WAH!?

ARRF!

RR

HOW'S THAT!?

IT'S A SUPERWEAPON THAT ONLY AFFECTS SPIDERS NOW!

OHH!

LUCKY! THAT'LL BE GOOD FOR LARGE AREAS.

SORRYYY! I'LL MAKE YOU SOME EARPLUGS!

HNN!

OH YEAH. THE PSEUDO-DOG WAS USED IN SPIDER EXPERIMENTS, WASN'T IT?

TCH.

JUST A STORAGE AREA!

I'M GONNA OPEN ANOTHER ONE.

GUH...

HEY...

DON'T TEMPT FATE...

PI (BEEP)

ALL RIGHT. THE REST'VE GOTTA BE GOOD LUCK!

03

SEEEEE!?

SHUT UP!

GYUGORURURU (RRRRRUMBLE)

OH.

I THINK I'M GONNA HURL.

WHAAA !?

DO (THUD)

GAKON (KA-THUNK)



COME AGAIN!

THAT'S THE WORST LUCK!!

BAKI (CRACK)

GI (KRAK)

I'LL DO MY BEST!

WEL-COME!

GOING WITH THE FUCKING MASOCHIST WAS THE WRONG MOVE.

DAMMIT!

THIS IS DEFINITELY THE BEST LUCK! WAH-HA-HA!

WE'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO GET BACK UP THERE!

NOW WHAT DO WE DO!?

CHAPTER 1

DEPLOY
!!!


BARA (CHUFF)
BARA

EEK!

I'M SORRY I EVER GOT INVOLVED IN RESELLING DRUGS, OKAY?

COME ON! I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH AMENOTORI ANYMORE.

I'M NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO LAND.

I DON'T NEED YOU TO LAND.

I HAVE BUSINESS DOWN THERE.

I'LL BE THE ONE GOING DOWN.

GACHA (KA-CHAK)

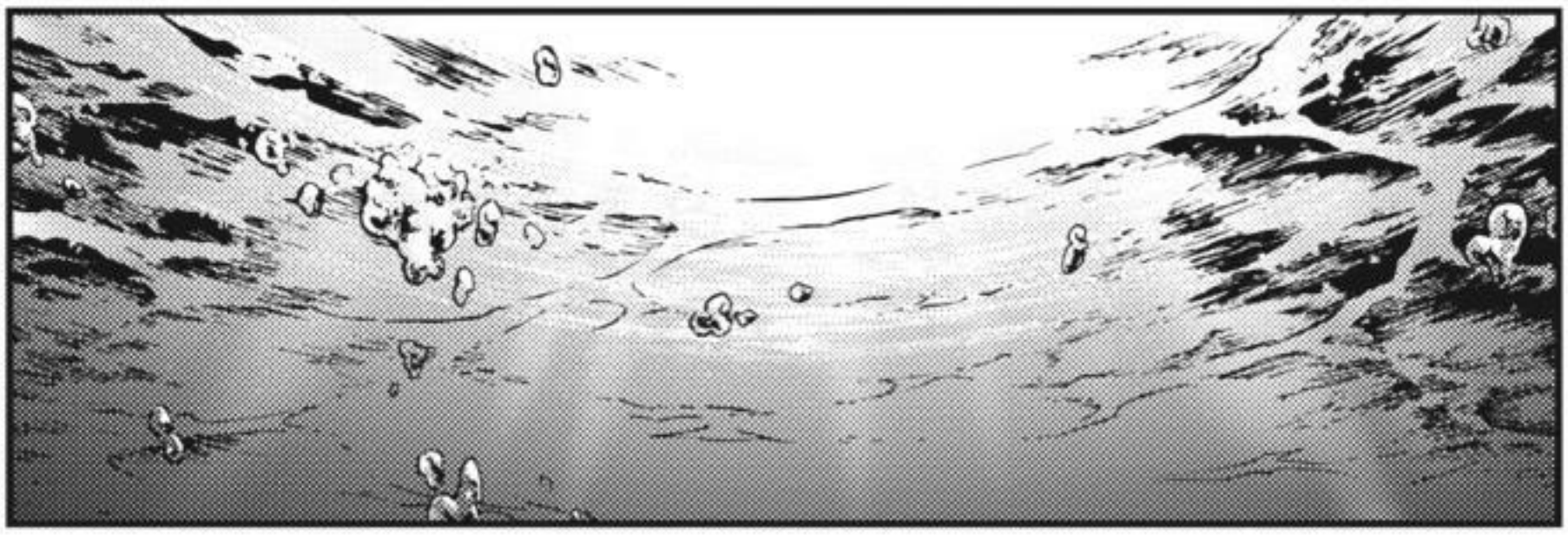
BARA (CHUFF)

THE HELL WAS THAT...?

BARA

HUH!?

BA (LEAP)




HAH!

<Now, everyone.>

<To the end times and the future you all desire!>

OFFLINE

<Cheers!>



PIKIKI (CRACKLE)

GUH...

HAA...

(FWEEEE)

AH!

AH!

HFF...

HA-HA.

IT'S LIKE A TECHNICOLOR FLOWER GARDEN.

PIKIKI (CRACKLE)

DESIRE IS SO FILTHY... AND SO BEAUTIFUL.

AND THE MAGATAMA ALLOWS ME TO MAKE THE FLOWERS BLOOM ENDLESSLY.






Aa
A+!


AA
+!


FEAR


AKA


AKA
BUT THE COLOR OF THE MOST SINFUL...

...IS DARK IN THE MOST DELICIOUSLY DERANGED WAY...

GUH...
HAH!
GO
(THWACK)
UNH!
...!
YOUKOU!
...S—
...OH.
PIKI
(CRACKLE)
...
SORRY...

IT'S NOTHING—

...HEY, WAIT!

AKUTA-SAN, THAT WOUND...!?

HEY, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT JUST NOW...?

YOU-KOOOU!

...I'm pretty sure I just saw someone go through the window.

KATATA (TAKKA)

...Yeah.

I must just be tired.

?

NO ONE WOULD BE THAT STUPID.

GARA (CLATTER)

ZA CCRUNCHD

...NOW.

TIME TO GO MONSTER HUNTING.

THE WORLD IS DEAD,

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

THE PARADE WILL START.

SMOKIN' PARADE

#42

ZURU (SLIP)

!

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME...?

BA (SPIN)

AAH!

NURU (SQUELCH)

IT'S STILL HOT...

AND WET...

OH NO. I'M GONNA FALL.

ZURU (SLIP)

...IS THE BOTTOM...?

HOW FAR DOWN...

NO.

WHERE'S THE GROUND? WHERE'S THE AIR?

I...NO, I THINK I ALWAYS KNEW THIS.

IS THIS HOW MIRAI FELT?

SO WHY IS IT SCARING ME NOW?

I'M...

ZOWA (SHUDDER)





...A MONSTER ...

...HUH ...?

SMOKIN' PARADE

#42

EMPTY-HANDED BATTLE

SHAA

HAAA

THEY'RE COMING AFTER US AGAIN!

THEY JUST DON'T STOP!

!

WAIT, AKUTA-SAN! IF YOU OPEN THAT—

GACHA (KACHAK)

.....

I'M PRETTY SURE HE WENT THIS WAY...

WHERE'S YOUKOU? HE WAS ACTING WEIRD. WHERE'D HE GO?

ズボ
ZUBO
(ZLURK)

クルン
KURUN
(WHIRL)

GIMME A BREAK, AKUTA...

.....

THIS IS THE WORST LUCK YET.

ARE WE HAVING A BAD YEAR?

SUU (FSHHH)

GREETINGS! I AM...

...SERIAL NUMBER 367298-6452-Q!

I WAS BORN DURING A FULL MOON THREE YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS AGO AS AN ARA MITAMA-TYPE SPIDER.

MY HUMAN FORM WAS PURIFIED IN THE AMENOTORI CENTRAL RESEARCH LAB...

...AND AFTER FULL DISASSEMBLY, I RETURNED AS A SPIDER.

ALONG WITH MY SIBLING, KOMANEKO, I SERVE AS EQUERRY TO THE PRESIDENT OF AMENOTORI.

I AM A MODEL THAT IS FORWARD COMPATIBLE WITH THE SHIKAGURA.

*EQUERRY: A PERSONAL ATTENDANT.

MY NAME IS KOMAINU, THE GUARDIAN DOG!

I WILL BE THE SHADOW THAT BURNS ITSELF INTO YOUR SIGHT!

DON
(BLAM)

SHUT UP ALREADY.

!

HE DODGED? NO...IT BOUNCED OFF HIM?

I AM TO REMOVE ANY PERSONS WHO DRAW NEAR.

UTSUWA-SAMA'S CHAMBERS ARE LOCATED 248 METERS BELOW OUR CURRENT LOCATION.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT!?

YOU JUST SAID IT.

ZOUNDS! YOU ARE AN EVIL, DEVIOUS LOT!

HUH? OH, SO THAT'S WHERE THE MAGATAMA IS!

GOTTA WRITE THAT DOWN!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE ABOUT TO DIE?

PRE-PARE—

DOGLIO (THWAMM)

!?

PAKI (CRACK)

HMPH.

LOOKS LIKE HIS BODY COULDN'T RUN ON AS LONG AS HIS MOUTH.

HE JUST STOOD THERE AND TOOK ALL OF THAT.

NO.

!?

HE'S COMPLETELY UNTOUCHED ...!?

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE RUDE IF I DID NOT ACCEPT YOUR FULL BARRAGE OF GREETINGS.

!!

BO (SLAM)

YOU BASTARD ...!

BUCHI

BUCHICHI (SNAPPP)

BACHIN (FWAP)

WA AA AH!

BAKIKII (CRUNCH)

HE TOOK THE SHOT AGAIN.

WE'RE NOT EVEN GONNA MAKE IT TO THE "TAKING THE MAGATAMA" PART.

HE RIPS THROUGH OUR GEARS LIKE THEY'RE TINFOIL...

THE HELL? HE'S REALLY HEAVY. AND HARD.

...! HE'S REALLY DANGEROUS.

HAS SOME-ONE...

...ALREADY MADE IT FARTHER IN?

KUN (SNIFF)

?!

BOTA (DRIP)

TA...

BRATA

TATATATA!

GASHA (CLACK)

—STOP RIGHT THERE, YOU DAMN MUTT!

BIKI (FWAP)

!

DO (BLAM)

...! AKUTA-SAN!!

DO

DO

DO

HE'S TRYING TO ISOLATE US.

GARA

YOU GOTTA GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE FUN HERE!

GARA (CRUMBLE)

COME ON! THE ONE YOU WANT...

...IS ME!

SPIDER, MASSETER CELL!

ROTTEN, ULTRA END MODEL!

VICIOUS VERSION!!

STONE-CRUSHING FANGS!

WOOF!

NOTHING REEKS WORSE THAN A LOSER!

YOU SMELL ONLY OF FLASH AND POMP.

BO (BOOM)

GASHA
(KA-CHAK)

GIIN

KIIN

KIIN
(SHING)

DO
(BLAM)

DO

DO

DO

BO
(THWACK)

HE'S TAKEN A SHITLOAD OF HITS, AND HE'S STILL UP AND RUNNING? WHAT IS HE, IMMORTAL?

IS HE THE SAME TYPE AS THOSE FACELESS BLACK SPIDERS?

IF I USE VICIOUS, HE DODGES...

...AND IF I USE ROTTEN, HE BLOCKS IT.

OH! WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THESE NUMBERS?

WAIT...HIS MUSCLES ARE TWITCHING WHERE HE'S TAKEN HITS...?

WHEN WE IMPROVED ITS HEARING AND SENSE OF SMELL BY 580 PERCENT, ITS SENSE OF PAIN INCREASED TOO.

IT'S FAR MORE SENSITIVE TO PAIN THAN THE OTHERS.

BUT EVEN SO, IT'S NOT MOVING.

OHH?

IMPRESSIVE.

PAPAN (SMACK)

DO

DO (BLAM)

!

NO FUCKING WAY. HE...

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

AS LONG AS I CARRY OUT UTSUWA-SAMA'S ORDERS...

...I—

—WILL RECEIVE HIS PRAISE...!

...A GRITTY-ASS BASTARD!?

ZOWAA (SHUDDER)

HE'S JUST...

!

GA (GRAB)

BAKIN (SNAP)

SMOKIN' PARADE

#43 SELF-DETERMINATION

MEGYA (GULPG)

BIKI (CRICK)

MECHI (SPLRT)

MECHIMECHICHI

NUCHI (GLRCH)

GOSHA (SPLATCH)

"DECIDE FOR YOUR OWN DAMN SELF WHAT YOUR WEAKNESS IS."

WAS I THE GUY WHO SAID THAT? ...AND TO WHO?

...IS THIS HOW WEAK I REALLY AM...?

IS THIS IT?

NAH.

HAVEN'T FELT MY OWN FLESH FLYING APART...

...IN A REALLY LONG TIME.

I DON'T WANNA LOSE TO ANYONE BUT HIM...

JUST ONE MORE SHOT...!!

DON'T YOU START FLASHING BACK, BRAIN!

FUCKING PIECE OF JUNK!

GOTTA PUSH IT TO THE LIMIT.

BIKI

BIKI (CRACK)

...IS IN THE BARREL. GOTTA MAKE THAT WORK SOMEHOW.

THE PRESSURIZED METAL THAT CAUSES THE TRANSFOR-MATION...

!

DEPLOY!!!

GAKUN (SLUMP)

...!

MY SIDE...

ZUKI (THROB)

BOKYU (BLRCH)

ZAA (CRUNCH)

...FUCK.

...THAT WAS QUITE ENJOYABLE. YOU FIGHT WITH NO END IN SIGHT, BRAVE WARRIOR.

SUBMIT.

BIKIKI (CRACKLE)

KARAN (CLATTER)

YOU...

...IS IT FOR ME—

THIS...

...ARE GUILTY.

...HA!

...

"RUNNING AWAY"...?

...I NEEDED TIME TO THINK ABOUT MY OWN WEAKNESS SOME MORE.

...BUT SOME URGENT BUSINESS SET ME BACK.

...KOTO-HARU?

DONE RUNNING AWAY NOW...

"KIDNAPPER DEMANDING RANSOM HAS TURNED INTO A SPIDER."

"THE PARENTS REFUSE TO PAY."

"THE VICTIM IS ALREADY DEAD."

"MILITANT ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE JACKALOPES, HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED."

BUT HE JUST...

...THERE WAS THIS KID THERE WHO COULDN'T WALK.

IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS PARALYZED FROM THE WAIST DOWN. (LATER WE FOUND OUT IT WAS SPINA BIFIDA.)

...DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A CORPSE TO ME.

I CAN'T FIGURE OUT...

...THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF STRENGTH.

...I DUNNO EITHER...

BWA HA!

...BUT FROM WHAT I SEE, YOU'VE GROWN INTO A DAMN GOOD MAN.

.....

I HAVE, HAVEN'T I?

...AKUTA-NII.

LEMME GET A SMOKE IN BEFORE WE GET TO YOUR BUSINESS.

THAT MAKES THIS EASY.

SO YOU HEARD THE OLD LADY'S MESSAGE?

NO WAY...

HAS EVERYONE ELSE GONE AFTER THE MAGATAMA?

NAH. THE ROOM FELL APART, SO THEY'RE PROBABLY TAKING A DIFFERENT ROUTE.

YOU REST HERE.

I HAVE SOME CIGARETTES FOR YOU.

.....

AMENOTORI

...THE HELL IS THIS?

WHERE IS YOUKOU?

...

...HAH!

HA!

HFF!

HAVE TO RUN!

WHY AM I RUNNING?

I FEEL LIKE A BARRAGE OF ICICLES IS PIERCING MY BACK.

MY HEART'S POUNDING SO LOUD.

I CAN'T REALLY MOVE MY EYES, AND I CAN'T SEE TOO WELL EITHER.

HAVE TO RUN.

THIS IS TOO TERRIFYING.
HAVE TO RUN FROM IT.

THAT'S HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO.

...TO GET ALL SENTI-MENTAL.

...TO APOLOGIZE.

...TO MESS UP.

...TO FIGHT.

...TO GET SCARED.

...TO GET MAD.

I USED THE FAMILY RULES...

...IT DIDN'T UPSET ME AT ALL.

BUT WHEN I TOOK A CHUNK OUT OF OLD MAN AKUTA'S SIDE...

HAVE TO HURRY...

...AND...

...RUN!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? WHY IS IT IN ME? HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN IN ME? HOW LONG'S IT GONNA BE IN ME?

HF!

AH!

I'M HUNGRY, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M STUFFED.

IT'S LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING TRAPPED UNDER MY SKIN.

HAAH

URP!

NOW

DORO (GLOOP)



KA (SHINK)

PIKI (CRACK)

GODON (SMASH)

...

KOTO-HARU!?

BA (GRAB)

HYU (FWP)

!

PAN (SMACK)

...THIS IS MY URGENT BUSINESS.

THAT'S MORE LIKE...

HE'S HURT? NO...

?

IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN HIDING IT FROM THE TEAM?

...TELLS ME YOU REALIZE WHAT IT MEANS, DON'T YOU?

...THE FACT THAT YOU IMMEDIATELY WENT TO HIDE THAT...

THAT FRIEND OF YOURS IS TROUBLE.

EVERYONE IS BOTH BLACK AND WHITE, YOU KNOW?

AKUTA-NII'S FRIEND LEFT BEHIND SOME DOCUMENTS ABOUT AMENOTORI—AND SOME ADVICE...

AMENOTORI

IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE TO SOMEONE TRYING TO TELL WHICH SIDE IS REAL...YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED.

.....

...BUT...

SPIDERS ARE CHIMERAS. HUMANS WITH THE MAGATAMA FACTOR INJECTED INTO THEM.

IT WAS MOSTLY MEANINGLESS DATA...

...BUT IT SHOWED WHAT YOU REALLY ARE.

I SENT THIS TO DOC AND THE OTHERS BEFORE I CAME.

...!

TIME CODE

129556790

YOU'RE EVEN MORE INHUMAN THAN A SPIDER.

...YOU ARE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT MAGATAMA IN THE FORM OF A HUMAN.

WHA...!?

HAVE YOU ENJOYED PRETENDING TO BE HUMAN, YOU MONSTER?

...

HFF!

...IS HE TELLING THE TRUTH, YOUKOU!?

SAY SOME-THING!

...YOU... ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AKUTA-NII'S WOUND, AREN'T YOU?

THAT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO CONDEMN YOU TO DEATH.

YOU SHOULD NOT BE PRESENT FOR THESE EVENTS THAT WILL GUARANTEE THE FATE OF HUMANITY.

I WILL DISPOSE OF YOU.

BO (FWOOSH)

I DIDN'T KNOW—

GAH!

SHIPAPA (SLASH)

...!

AH! ...AH!

PIKI (KRIK)

MEKI (CRACK)

...EE!

...BUT I SAW THE TRUTH!

THERE YOU WERE, CROWING, "I'M GONNA DECIDE MY OWN COLOR FOR MYSELF!!"

JUST TAKE A LOOK UNDER YOUR SKIN!

YOU'RE...

...PITCH-BLACK!

WE'VE MANAGED TO PUSH THEM BACK!

ANYONE WHO CAN MOVE, GET FARTHER IN!

Hey!

DAMMIT, SHIRAMA! THE SPIDERS ARE WHITTLING AWAY AT US EVERY SECOND!

ARE YOU MAKING ANY PROGRESS?

SMOKIN' PARADE

#44 UNLIKELY ALLIANCES

...OH! SORRY, NEE-CHAN.

I GOT A LITTLE DISTRACTED.

.....

HE'S MORE OF A MONSTER THAN THE SPIDERS—

INTERNAL ORGANS THAT ARE MIRACULOUSLY RESISTANT TO SHOCK FROM BLOOD LOSS!

What in the world is that!?

Is that data Kotoharu sent for real...!?



I NEVER IMAGINED HE WAS JUST PURE MAGATAMA IN THE FORM OF A HUMAN...

IS HE...

...A TRAITOR HIDING IN OUR RANKS...?

STOP IT, KOTO-HARU!

YOUKOU'S ACTING WEIRD!

PAKIKI (CRAAACK)

GH...

HAAH!

I WON'T STOP.

WE HAVE TO SHOW HIS TRUE COLORS.

WHICH IS IT?

WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER!?

NO-

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS LIKE—

PIKIKIKI

I'M STILL TRYING TO FOLLOW...

...THE FAMILY RULES...

I'M TRYING TO BE DECENT!

I'M GONNA BE DECENT!

GARA (CLATTER)

...I...

...DON'T KNOW!

NO...

"I'M A MONSTER WHO DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE ALIVE."

YOU'RE RIGHT. I...

...I KNEW I SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.

GOSHI (SCRUB)

HOW COULD OUR FAMILY HAVE PRODUCED SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

A TRANSPLANT? BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE CHECKS TO SEE IF HE'S REGISTERED AS PART OF THE FAMILY?

I-I'M SORRY.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO.

DESPITE YOUR FAILINGS, YOU'RE STILL VERY IMPORTANT TO THE FAMILY.

SO YOU MUST NEVER THINK ABOUT GOING OUTSIDE.

YOU SPILLED AGAIN...

GACHAN (KCHAK)

...AT LEAST IT HAPPENED AFTER I WASHED UP AND BRUSHED MY HAIR.

OH, BUT I'M GLAD...

OKAY.

IT'S NOTHING.

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?

MAMA!

JUST A BUG.

—I'M...

.....

WHADDAYA MEAN, "WEAK"?

...REALLY WEAK...BUT CAN I BECOME STRONG LIKE YOU...?

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAYS.

WELL... THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY I AM.

IT JUST HAPPENED. THEY DIDN'T MEAN TO BE CRUEL. THERE WAS JUST NO PLACE THERE FOR THE WEAK.

IF YOU AREN'T NECESSARY...

...THEN YOU SHOULDN'T BE ALIVE.

THAT'S ONLY OBVIOUS.

SO I WANT TO BE STRONG LIKE YOU...

IF I COULD JUST PRETEND TO BE STRONGER, THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH!

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY ANNOYING, KID.

...HA!

Your head is jacked up too?

YOU HAVE ARMS, UNLIKE ME.

DECIDE FOR YOUR OWN DAMN SELF WHAT YOUR WEAKNESS IS.

YOU'RE A SHRIMP, UNLIKE ME.

YOU'RE NOT EVERYONE. YOU'RE NOT ME EITHER.

?

...ALL THIS TIME...

...YOU'VE PRATTLED ON ABOUT YOUR FAMILY RULES AND BEING RIGHT.

BUT NOW YOU'RE DEVOLV-ING INTO SELF-PITY...?

SO WHAT ARE YOU?

ZURU (SLIDE)

GARA (CLATTER)

HEY, YOU TWO...

!?

GAKON (KA-CLUNK)

ZURURU

BOKOO (CLANK)

DOLUN
(WHOOSH)

GO (WHUP)

GO

BAK! (CRACK)

BAK!

GO

GABO (BURBLE)

"WHAT...

"...ARE YOU?"



GOGIGI (GRIND)

WHEN I WAS LOST IN THE MIRE OF MY OWN WORRIES WITH NOWHERE TO TURN...

GYORU (YANK)

...WAS THE HAND THAT REACHED OUT TO ME FROM THE DARKNESS...

...THE HAND OF A MONSTER?

OR MY OWN HAND?

I'M NO LONGER A BUG.

I AM HARTWIG KOTONE, AND I WILL ANSWER WITH MY THREE BLADES, THE GEARS IN MY BACK!



DOPA (SPLASH)

KOFF!

ZAPAAA (SPLOOSH)

BWUH!?

...KOTO-HARU.

WHY?

...EVEN WHEN YOU'VE LOST YOUR REASON, YOU'RE STILL THE SAME IDIOT.

YOU CAN'T EVEN SWIM?

IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT ON YOUR OWN...

...YOU ARE SO ANNOYING.

BICHAN (SPLAT)

...THEN YOU JUST NEED TO ASK SOMEONE FOR HELP.

AND YOU'VE LIVED ALL THIS TIME...

...WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THAT?

ADD THIS TO YOUR FAMILY RULES!

YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER OR A HUMAN! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A FOOL!

P—

PFFT!

...GUH!

AH-HA-HA...

HUH? WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING!?

HAHH!

HA-HA-HA!

...THANKS.





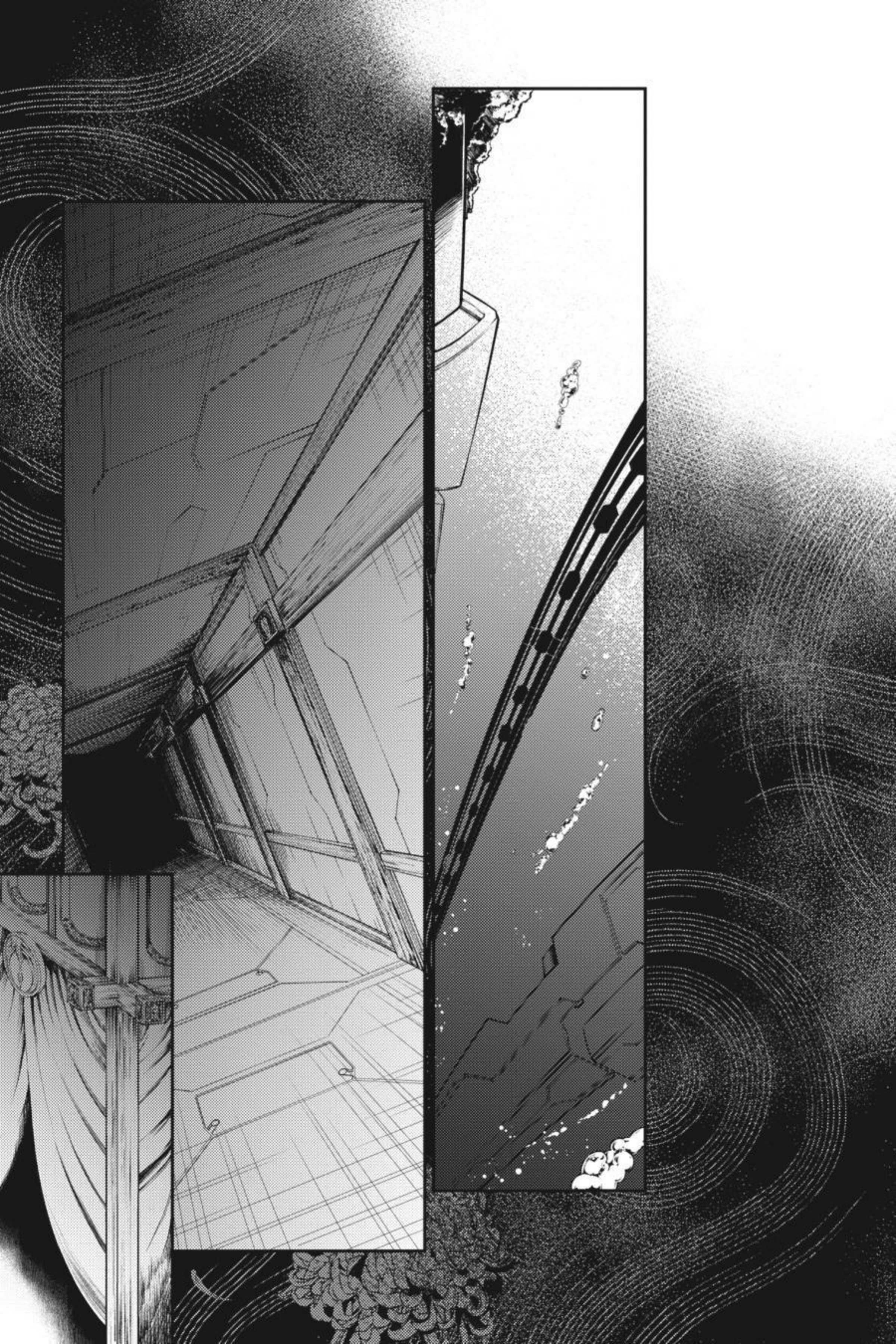
...SHOULDA COME UP WITH THAT ANSWER TOO.

AHH!

TCH.

GOLD

ANNOYING-ASS BRATS.



KOMANEKO, KOMAINU...

YOU'VE BEEN REDUCED TO SUCH A STATE.

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT FOR LETTING THE DEMONS INCREASE THEIR NUMBERS ON A WHIM.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I DID WANT TO SEE WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THAT, THOUGH.

THE ONE MYSTERIOUS CREATURE I COULDN'T ALLOW TO EXIST.

THAT ADORABLE, HIDEOUS MASS OF FLESH.

SMOKIN' PARADE #09

By Jinsei Kataoka, Kazuma Kondou

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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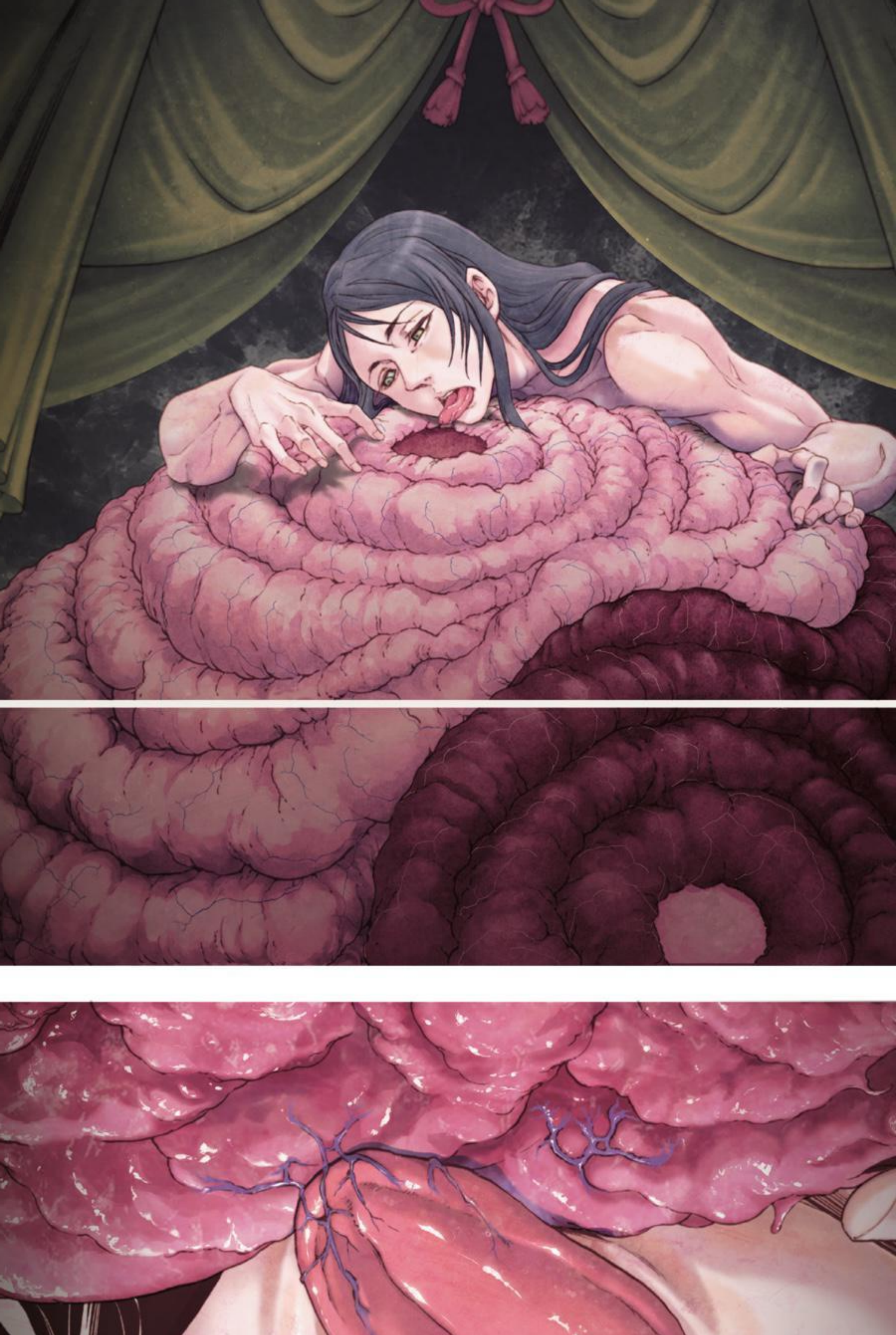
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JINSEI KATAOKA
KAZUMA KONDOU

10
FINAL

SMOKIN' PARADE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT





#45

A HEATED BATTLE

SMOKIN' PARADE

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU

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A Heated Battle

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SMOKIN' PARADE

CHARACTERS

AKUTA

A Jackalope who has taken a liking to Youkou because he sees himself in the kid. A heavy smoker with a sweet tooth.

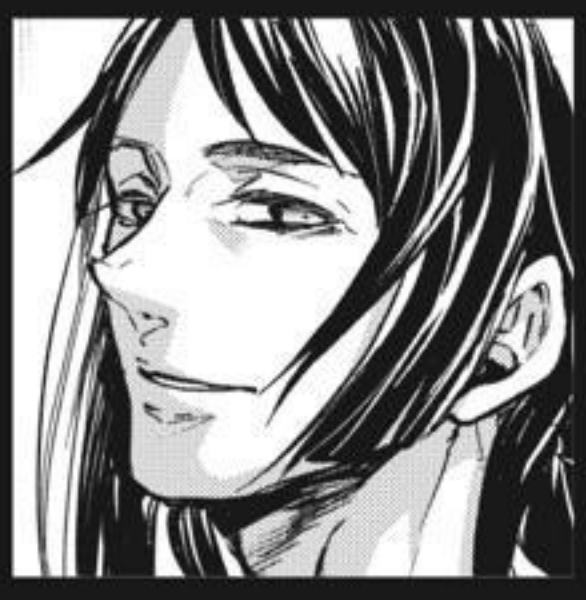
YOUKOU KAKUJOU

A boy who lost both arms and his right leg when his younger sister turned into a Spider. He has replaced one missing arm with a Gear and joined the Jackalopes.

KOTOHARU

A member of the Jackalopes. He has an incredible amount of respect for Akuta and keeps a collection of items related to him.





UTSUWA MUNOMIYA

President of Amenotori. The person behind the spread of the Spider pandemic.



MIRAI KAKUJOU

Youkou's younger sister. She was believed to be dead, but instead she has turned into a Spider and is still living.



MIDARI



MATSUGO



DOC

contact

BORDER ALERT

VLIN (VWMM)

PYUI (BLEEP) PYUI

PIKU (PERK)

002-1-B

PII (BEEP)

...I SUPPOSE THE DEMONS WEREN'T CAUGHT UP WITH THE OTHER CUSTOMERS.

I'LL HAVE TO GO GREET THEM PROPERLY.

LOCKS DIS-ENGAGED.

WE'RE HEADING IN FROM EAST OH-THREE.

KA (CLACK)

WAIT.

I'M COMING WITH YOU.

IT WILL BE TOO DIFFICULT TO ACCESS ANY DATA ON THE AMENOTORI FACILITIES FROM THE OUTSIDE.

ANYONE WHO CAN STILL MOVE SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THE REMAINING ENEMY FORCES...

...AND WE'LL RENDEZVOUS WITH YOUKOU AND THE ADVANCE TEAM.

YES, BOSS!

VUI
(WHIRR)

CHIKIKIKI
(CLATTER)

...?


VUII
BAKYA (FWAP)
AHH!
GIN (GLINT)
You looking for a fight...?
What is this machine for...?
JAKI (SHUNK)

BASHU (FSHOOM)

!?

VUI (WHIR)

...THIS IS...

HUH...? WHAT THE...?

WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IS THAT...?

BASHI (SMACK)

...AMENOTORI'S ENHANCED MAGATAMA FACTOR...!!

PI (BEEP)

PI

HUH?

I'M NOT REALLY INTO PAIN.

WE NEED TO CARVE IT OUT OF YOU, FLESH AND ALL!

DAMMIT! IF ONE OF THOSE HITS YOU, YOU'LL TURN INTO A SPIDER...

COULD BE A COUPLE OF DAYS. COULD BE A COUPLE OF HOURS...

I'LL SEE IF I CAN SUPPRESS IT.

...HOW LONG DO I HAVE?

I REALLY DON'T WANNA TURN INTO A SPIDER NOW THAT WE'RE HERE.

HEH HEH...

THAT'S FINE.

UHHH... YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO EXCITED ABOUT IT.

THIS WON'T HURT ONE BIT! ♥

HMM...

WE BELIEVE THE ORIGINAL MAGATAMA IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT...

THE ENHANCED GENES CAUSING THE SPIDER PANDEMIC...

IF CONTROL OF THE MAGATAMA...

...TRULY ALREADY LIES WITH HIM, THEN...

PACHI (CRACKLE)

PACHIN

BO
(FWOOSH)

...!?

BIKIKI

BIKI (KRAK)

WHA...!?

STOP IT...

DOC... STOP IT!

HE'S TRANS-FORMING TOO FAST...!!

WHY DO MY HANDS LOOK THE SAME AS THE THING...

...THAT KILLED MY MOM ...?

NOOO-OOO... NOOO!

CLick

.....!

NO...

...I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO RETURN THAT BOOK I BORROWED.

.....

MIDARI-NEE.

...THIS IS HAPPENING EVERY SECOND.

—ALL AROUND THE WORLD...

THE DELICIOUS FOOD THEY BOUGHT FOR THEIR BELOVED FAMILY IS NOW ROTTING.

...THAT LONG-AWAITED COMMITMENT CEREMONY WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

FOR EXAMPLE...

NO MORE WEAPONS. NO MORE MISFORTUNES. NO MORE POVERTY.

THEY BECOME A MERE PUPPET OF THEIR OWN DESIRES WITH NO SENSE OF SELF. THEY SIMPLY DESTROY.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EGO IS THE END OF THE WORLD.

GI (CREAK)

THAT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY ON POINT.

HEH.

IT'S LIKE WE'RE HEROES IN SOME ACTION MOVIE WHERE WE HAVE TO SAVE THE WORLD.

WE NEED TO SEIZE THE ORIGINAL MAGATAMA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...!

NO SHAME IN PLAYING THE HERO.

ドロォ!

ZU

ZURURU (SLITHER)

I JUST LOST A BIT OF MY TRACHEA, THAT'S ALL.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, KOMANEKO, KOMAINU.

...IF YOU WANT MY FLESH, YOU CAN EAT YOUR FILL, MAGATAMA.

I JUST NEED YOU TO WAIT A LITTLE BIT LONGER.


I'VE ALREADY ACCELERATED MY PLANS QUITE A BIT.
I'LL FREE ALL OF HUMANITY TO BE THEIR "TRUE SELVES."

I JUST NEED TO WORK A LITTLE BIT MORE FOR MY CUSTOMERS.

I JUST NEED TO WORK A LITTLE BIT MORE.

FOR THE WORLD.

FOR HUMANITY.

PIKU (TWITCH)

GAGO (WHUD)

AFTER ALL, THAT IS THE ONLY CHOICE LEFT FOR ME AS A HUMAN—

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

THE FLOWER'S NECTAR WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON *YOU*, WOULD IT?

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE...

...SINCE I FAILED TO KILL YOU, MY MONSTER.

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL STA

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KON

ŌKIN³ PARADE

GARA (RATTLE)

#46 PRETTY WORDS

WHY DO ALL YOU EVIL-OVERLORD TYPES LIKE DARK PLACES SO MUCH ANYWAY?

ARE YOU SUCH A FILTHY MESS 'COS YOU HAVEN'T BATHED YET? OR IS IT JUST WHAT YOU'RE INTO?

GARA (CLATTER)

HEY.

WHEN YOU SAY "MONSTER," YOU MEAN YOURSELF, RIGHT?

HM.

MY SINCERE APOLOGIES, VALUED CUSTOMER. I DIDN'T SEE YOU STANDING THERE.

VLIN (VWMM)

BA (FWOOSH)

EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE, MY BLADE WILL STILL FIND YOU.

PASHIN
(SHWUMM)

KA
(TAK)

BARIRIRI
(CRACKLE)

BO (FWOOSH)

GUH...!

KWAAA

BACHI (CRACKLE)

I'VE HAD A LOOK AT GAGARA'S DATA.

...!

...BOSS.

BA (RUSH)

EVERY-ONE STAY BACK!

KOTOHARU!!

ZUSHA (THUD)

...UTSUWA MUNOMIYA...

HOW TERRI-BLE...

AND *THAT*...

...BUT YOUKOU...

YES.

I KNOW.

THE ORIGINAL MAGATAMA. THE SOURCE.

Don't touch. It's dangerous.

It's an electromagnetic field powered by eight hundred million volts of electricity.

IS THIS...A WALL?

We're not going to be able to reach him...

...SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK ANYONE WHO ISN'T A CUSTOMER TO DIE, PLEASE.

THE LINKING PROCESS IS NOT YET COMPLETE...

THE CUSTOMER IS GOD.

HOW-EVER...

...DEMONS MUST BE CAST OUT.

...IS YOUR AIM HERE?

...WHAT...

.....

GIVING PEOPLE TRANS-PLANTS...

...AND SPREADING VIRUSES ALL OVER THE WORLD...

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO...?

?

...HUH?

?

I...
AMENOTORI IS SIMPLY GIVING PEOPLE WHAT THEY ASK FOR.

WE'RE NOTHING BUT BENEVOLENT BUSINESS-PEOPLE.

I HAVE NO AIM.

GAN (WHAM)

BUN (WHOOSH)

BORO (CRMBL)

BUSU (FZZT)

BUSU

BARI (CRACKLE)

BARI

...CREATING ALL THE SPIDERS!

...YOU'RE THE ASSHOLE...

WHO...

...WOULD CHOOSE TO WIND UP LIKE THAT...!?

IT'S SIMPLY PROOF THAT EVERYONE HAS WANTS.

...ARE MERELY THOSE WHO ARE TRUE TO THEIR DESIRES.

SPIDERS...

BECOMING A SPIDER IS A SIGN THAT ONE WAS HUMAN IN THE FIRST PLACE.

NO.

BEASTS KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE SATISFIED.

THE SHEER INSATIABILITY OF HUMANS IS DEEP AND COMPLEX. IT'S PURE. BEAUTIFUL.

WHAT'S HUMAN ABOUT BEING UNABLE TO CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS?

THEY'RE BEASTS.

THE WAY THEIR PUPILS DILATE WHEN THEY'RE AFRAID. THE WAY THEIR THROAT MUSCLES MOVE WHEN THEY EAT SOMETHING THEY LIKE.

THE WAY THEIR FACES TWITCH WHEN THEY SENSE SOMETHING THAT BRINGS THEM ANGER OR PAIN. THE WAY THEY CRY. THE WAY THEY SOB— *I!*

I...

...LOVE HUMANS!

I FIND SUCH BEAUTY IN THAT.

(ZOWA (SHUDDER)

...PERHAPS YOU WISH TO KILL ME AND SAVE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING?

YOU MAY CALL YOURSELVES DEMONS, BUT YOU STILL HAVE DESIRES.

FOR EXAM-PLE...

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO KILL ME?

WILL YOU SHOOT ME IN THE LIVER?

WILL YOU BURN ME ALIVE?

WILL YOU CUT ME TO PIECES, LIKE A PUZZLE?

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR ME SCREAM IN AGONY AND BEG FOR MY LIFE?

IS THAT YOUR REQUESTED ORDER?

ONCE THE WORLD HAS BECOME PURE AND IS FILLED WITH NOTHING BUT DESIRE...

...THEN I WILL OFFER MY DEATH TO YOU, JUST AS YOU WISH.

HE'S NUTS.

...HUH?

...AND A HOMUNCULUS MADE BY THE MAGATAMA.

STANDING BEFORE ME ARE A COLLECTION OF HALF-MACHINE CREATURES...

HA-HA. ARE YOU REALLY ONE TO TALK?

WHAT IS IT YOU DESIRE?

YOUKOU-KUN, FIRST AMONG THE SPIDERS.

HOW HAVE YOU HELD ON TO YOUR HUMAN FORM?

NO MATTER WHAT EXPERIMENTS I RAN, I NEVER CHANGED...

I SIMPLY DEPLETED MY LIFE SPAN.

BUT I NEVER BECAME A SPIDER...

I TRIED OUT ALL OF OUR ***PRODUCTS*** ON MYSELF FIRST.

WHAT...?

...!
SO THAT'S WHY HE RUSHED TO START THE PANDEMIC...!

AMENOTORI

GI (CREAK)

THAT'S WHY...

...YOU DID ALL THAT...?

THAT'S WHY...?

ZURU (SLIDE)

ズル…

...YOU FOOL.

WAAAH!

WE CAN'T HOLD THIS POSITION ANY LONGER!

THERE'S STILL MORE OF THEM!

WA A...

YOU SAY YOU HAVE NO AIMS...

FOUR MEASLY DAYS WITHOUT SLEEP WON'T KILL YOU!

HURRY AND GET THAT DATA UPDATED SO WE CAN RERUN THE CALCULATIONS!

...BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY JUST TRYING TO TAKE THE WORLD DOWN WITH YOU.

...I'M FINE. NEVER MIND ME.

YOUR BODY...!

BIKIKI (CREAK)

HAAH...

WAAAA
CLAMOR

WE HAVE TO STOP THEM...

...RIGHT HERE...

AAA

WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?

NOW THAT THINGS ARE THIS BAD...

HA!

THE VILLAGE IS SEVENTY PERCENT SPIDERS NOW. SO WHERE...

WE SHOULD JUST GIVE UP ON THIS LOCATION AND FALL BACK.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOU INHUMAN CREATURE IN THE FORM OF A PERSON.

WHAT WE DESIRE...

YOU ARE A SELFISH CHILD WHO THINKS HE'S A GOD.

...HOW DOES IT END?

...AND YOU AS WELL!!

...IS...

...TO DESTROY THIS "QUEEN BEE" MAGATAMA...



.....

IF YOU DESTROY THE ORIGINAL MAGATAMA...

...ALL OF THE SPIDERS WILL DIE.

INCLUDING YOU, "YOUKOU"-KUN.

BAKI (SMACK)

!

BAKI
(CRACK)

MIJI
(CRACKLE)

MIJI

SO WHAT?

IF I WERE SCARED OF DYING, I WOULDN'T HAVE SHOWED UP TO THE FIGHT.

BAKIN (CRACK)

DA (DASH)

!

PAKAA (FWAP)

!?

MIRAI !?

I FINALLY CAUGHT UP.

GIII (SHWAP)

I'M GOING TO HELP!

"IF YOU DESTROY THE ORIGINAL MAGATAMA...

.....!

"...ALL OF THE SPIDERS...

"...WILL DIE."

JUNK



JINSEI KATAOKA

KAZUMA KONDOU

PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD,
THE
PARADE
WILL START.

47

...MIRAI'S A SPIDER TOO. SHE'LL DIE...?

...BUT THEN...

WE HAVE TO DESTROY THE MAGATAMA...

LET'S GET THE MAGATAMA!

THE BARRIER'S DOWN!

GOT IT!

LET'S GO!

MAKE SURE YOU ADJUST THE ELECTRICAL DAMPENERS ON YOUR GEARS, JUST IN CASE...!

#47
NO REGRETS

ユラ…
YURA (DRIFT)

…YOU-KOU?

?

GO, KOMAINU, KOMANEKO.

I'VE MISSED THIS SORT OF PAIN.

BYUGAGA (FWOOOOSH)

THE JACKALOPES HAVE ALREADY SERVED THEIR PURPOSE.

I HAVE NO FURTHER NEED FOR MY SMOKE-SCREEN.

GAGON (CLUNK)

GAN (BOOM)

!

GA

GA

GOGON

GOGON

GA (GRAB)

YOUKOU !!

NGH...!

GON

GON (CLUNK)

BON (THOOM)

GOGO (RUMBLE)

THAT IDIOT.

...BUT NOW HE'S WEIGHING HER LIFE AGAINST THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD?

HE DIDN'T EVEN FLINCH AT TRYING TO KILL HIS SPIDER SISTER BEFORE...

OH...

YOU ARE RIGHT, YOUKOU...!

IT'S OKAY.

...AND THE HUMAN ONE.

THE INHUMAN ONE...

WHY IS IT...

...IN HUMAN FORM...?

IF THEY WANTED DREAMS, I GAVE THEM DRUGS.

IF THEY WANTED WARMTH, I PRESENTED MY SKIN.

IF SOMEONE WANTED TO HIT ME, I SOLD THEM A STICK.

IT IS BEST THAT YOU REMAIN "EMPTY."

YOU ARE AN EMPTY VESSEL.

FILL YOURSELF WITH OTHERS.

I WILL.

THAT IS WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE.

NEITHER JUST NOR WICKED.

NEITHER BEAUTIFUL NOR UGLY.

NEVER SWAYED BY ANYTHING.

I AM UTSUWA— THE VESSEL.

I...

...HUMAN.

...AM NOT...

IT'S...

DAM-
MIT...

...RIGHT
THERE...

GIRI
(STRAIN)

WHY?

HYU (WHOOSH)

WHY WON'T MY ARMS AND LEGS...

...MOVE?

GA (STRAIN) GA

EVERYONE WILL BE SAVED...

...ALL THE SPIDERS WILL GO AWAY...

IF I BREAK IT...

I'LL GET HUNGRY...

I'LL GO BACK TO SCHOOL...

HEY, YOUKOU, GO WASH YOUR HANDS FIRST!

GOT IT.





ONII-CHAN?

THAT'S NOT THE SORT OF PERSON HE IS.

NO WAY.

...HOLDING BACK BECAUSE OF ME...?

IS HE...

THE FAMILY RULES?

YEAH.

...I CAN BE NORMAL IF I FOLLOW THEM.

OLD MAN KAKUJOU TOLD ME...

HE'S CHANGED.

HE'S GOTTEN WEAK.

I WASN'T ENOUGH BACK THEN.

...YOU IDIOT!

YOUKOU ...!

ONII-CHAN...

GO (FWOOSH)

AHH!

...GH!

ZAN (STAB)

ZAN

DO (WHACK)



MI...

...RAI!

...OH.

I ACTUALLY MANAGED TO PROTECT HIM. I'M KINDA COOL.

OR...

AHH... DAMMIT!

MIRAI, I'M SORRY...

SOR—

...HEH.

KAKUJOU FAMILY RULE...

...!

...!

...HEH.

...I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LOOK LIKE THAT.

...ARE YOU JUST THAT WEAK, ONII-CHAN?

...!

...!

...!

YOU LOOK WAY COOLER THAN BEFORE!

I WISH I COULD SNAP A PIC OF THIS...

KATSUN (CLINK)

...THEN THAT SHOULD MAKE US LUCKY, RIGHT?

IF WE PUT TWO CLOVERS WITH TWO LEAVES TOGETHER...

...MIRAI.

BIKI
(CRACK)

THE WORLD IS DEAD,



JINSEI KATAOKA

KAZUMA KONDOU

THE PARADE WILL START.

#48

GOGO (RRRUMBLE)

ZAPA (SPLASH)

BWAH!

DAMMIT, I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...

...WE CAN HOPE THEY DESTROY THE MAGATAMA IN TIME...

WE'LL HAVE TO BET ON THEM...

...WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER THREE?

I NEVER GUESSED HIS ESCAPE POD WOULD BE A SUB-MERSIBLE.

BASHA (SPLISH)

ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS GO BACK TO THE DECK AND LOOK FROM THERE...

We don't have time for that.

.....

BAKIKI (CRAAACK)

GI (CREAK)

AAH!

AH!

GI

GI

...TO END THE NIGHTMARE HE'S BROUGHT UPON US.

#48
FACING THE REAPER

GOO (FWOOSH)

HYU (WHOOSH)

AAA

.....

SO LOUD.

AH!

AAH...

PEKIKI (CRAAACK)

MEGI (CREAK)

.....

AH!

AH!

...!

YOUKOU...

KOMAINU AND KOMA-NEKO...

...ARE BEING TORN APART...!?

BIKI (KRIK)

BIKI

AH!

BUCHICHI (SNAP)

A

BUCHICHI

A

Y...

...YOU-KOU?

A



OHHH!

SPLENDID!

I KNEW...

...YOU WOULD BE A MONSTER.

...YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT...

...MY SISTER WAS HUMAN...!!

INDEED.

THE GREED OF HUMANS BIRTHED AND NURTURED THE SPIDERS.

...SPIDERS ARE HUMANITY'S TRUE FORM.

IN OTHER WORDS, NOW THAT THE MAGATAMA VIRUS RUNS RAMPANT...

...SINCE YOU NEVER BECAME A SPIDER YOURSELF...

...THEN...

BUT I NEVER BECAME A SPIDER...

...THAT MEANS YOU'RE THE REAL MONSTER.

REALLY...

...I SHOULD HAVE DISPOSED OF YOU PROPERLY.

TIME CODE
129556790:21

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

IT'S AMAZING. IT'S LIKE A PERFECT MIRROR.

YES.

WE MAY BE ABLE TO ADVANCE THE HUMAN RACE USING THE MAGATAMA.

IT CAN EVEN COPY RNA.

GUNYA...

GUNYA (WRIGGLE)

IT TRULY IS...

...LIKE A MIRROR.

IT'S FRIGHTENING HOW IT REACTS TO EMOTIONS.

SEEING MY OWN FACE IN IT GAVE ME CHILLS.

YOUR FACE?

AMPLIFICATION OF THE SOUL...

BAKIN (SHATTER)

バキン...

GUNYA

グニャ...

GU (GLRP)

GU

GUNYA (WRIGGLE)

YOU ARE THE EMPTY ONE...NOT ME.

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A LUMP OF FLESH...YET YOU TAKE HUMAN FORM. .....YOU...

...SHOULD NOT EXIST...

DO (SHNK)

DO

DO

DO

DO

GUH ...!

...!

...I ASK FOR NOTHING.

I SIMPLY LET MY CUSTOMERS DO AS THEY WILL.

...VERY WELL.

TCH...

GHF

IT'S NOT MY FAULT IF THE HEAVEN YOU WANTED TURNED OUT TO BE HELL INSTEAD...!

<Is this...>

<...the end for us...?>

<...I'm done for...>

NO CHANGES TO THE ACCELERATION OF THE RATE OF SPIDER TRANSFOR-MATION.

.....

<Is this the end of the world...?>

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND HOPE...

...THAT MY DAMNED BROTHER'S TEAM CAN PULL THIS OFF.

...YOUKOU'S PRETTY GOOD AT FIGHTING AGAINST TERRIBLE ODDS.

HE'S THE TYPE WHO'LL KEEP COMING AT YOU WITH A GIANT HOLE IN HIS GUTS...

...THEN YOU JUST NEED TO ASK SOMEONE FOR HELP.

AND HE'S GOT A REALLY GREAT FRIEND WITH HIM.

THEY'RE PROS AT FACING THEIR FEARS!

I'M SURE THEY'LL BE FINE.

IF THEY WERE PLAYING OTHELLO, THEY COULD TURN THE ENTIRE BOARD WHITE.

I...

...HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE I WANNA IMITATE.

I ALWAYS HAVE!

I WANNA BE LIKE THEM...

THAT IS...

...THE ONE THING...

...I DESIRE.

GIGI (CREAK)

THAT MAY BE TOO GRAND A WISH FOR A MONSTER.

HEH.

...!

IT'S ...

...NOT.

?!

KUI (TUG)

HYUU (FWOOSH)

...WE MAKE A GOOD TEAM, DON'T WE?

NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE MONSTERS.

BARA (SHLRK)

OH...

GOPU (GLRP)

A FEINT...

BORO (DROOP)

BORO

.....

...!

SO THIS IS THE MAGA-TAMA...




GUNYA
(WRIGGLE)

...OH.

...IT'S...

...MY FACE—






!?
PARA (CRMBL)
.....




!?
GU (GRAB)

...ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

...IF YOU KILL IT...

...ALL SPIDERS WILL DIE.

GUNYA. (WRIGGLE)

THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD...

...THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST.

BAGI (GRUNCH)

BARARA

BARA (CRMBL)

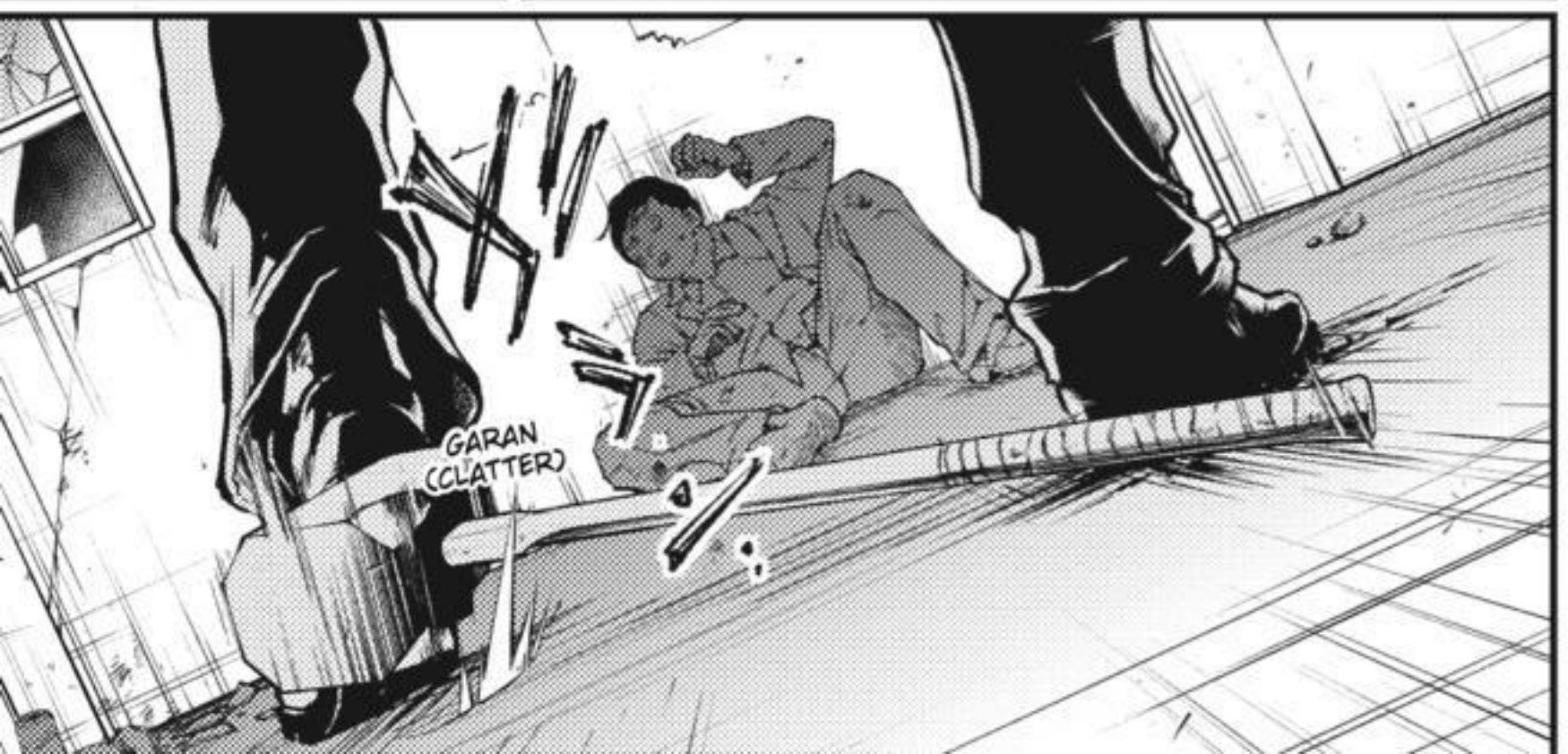

DAS






...?


GUH!


GARAN
(CLATTER)

ZUSHA (THUD)

.....

THERE'S NO SUCH THING...

...AS SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST.

ANY FIGURE WHO STRIVES TO BECOME WHO THEY WANT TO BE...

...IS HUMAN.

HA HA...


HA!!

SMOKIN' PARADE

THE WORLD IS DEAD, THE PARADE WILL

JINSEI KATAOKA, KAZUMA KONDOU



#49

THE ETERNAL CYCLE

BWAH!

.....

WHAT HAPPENED?

...THEY'RE ALL GONE.

...ALL RIGHT!

GU (CLENCH)

SPIDER READINGS...

...ARE VANISHING ALL OVER THE WORLD...!

SO YOU GUYS ENDED IT...?

I SEE.

THAT'S SMOKIN' COOL.

...I CAN IMAGINE.

HE REFLECTED THE MOST INHUMAN ASPECTS OF HUMANITY...

HE JUST KEPT RUSHING TOWARD OTHER PEOPLE'S DESIRES...AND THAT BROUGHT THE SPIDERS...

IT'S LIKE HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A WILL OF HIS OWN.

.....

THE PRESIDENT OF AMENOTORI WAS, WELL... TERRIFYING.

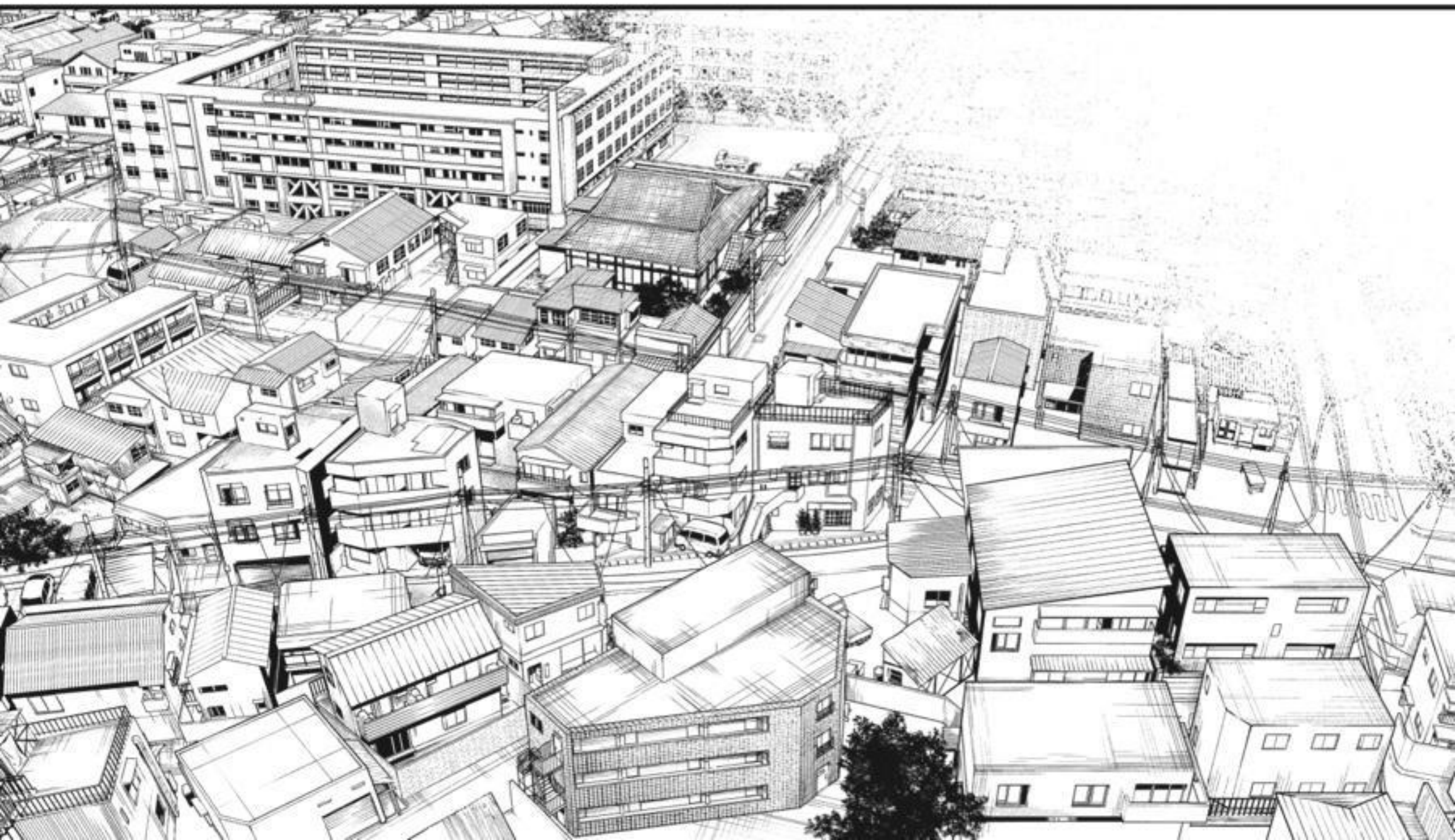
THE CUSTOMER IS GOD.

IF YOU ASSUME THE "FREEDOM" HE CHOSE FOR HUMANITY WAS BASED ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE WORLD...

...THEN I SUPPOSE WE WON'T SEE WORLD PEACE ANYTIME SOON.

WE MUST INSTEAD FORGE OUR OWN PATHS OF OUR OWN CHOOSING.





BLACK DEMON PROSTHETIC SHOP

WE HAVE PROSTHETICS! MADE TO ORDER! TOP QUALITY!!

YOU'LL PUT ON A LITTLE MORE MUSCLE WITH ONE OF MY LIMBS, SO I'LL MAKE IT WITH SOME WIGGLE ROOM.

I'M PRETTY FULL ON ORDERS...SO IT'LL PROBABLY BE ABOUT THREE WEEKS BEFORE IT'S READY.

HMM.

25.6 CM.

PATA (FLAP) PATA

IT IS.

THE PROSTHETIC BUSINESS MUST BE BOOMING, HUH?

THAT'S A LONG TIME.

I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE TRANSPLANTS HAVE BEEN OUTLAWED AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH AMENOTORI.

IT'S A PROSTHETIC TOO, RIGHT?

THAT'S PRETTY SWEET.

DON'T YOU WANT SOME TENTA-CLES?

OH! THERE ARE PLENTY OF EXTRA OPTIONS TOO. TAKE A LOOK!

THEY'RE JUST BARELY LEGAL! WE EVEN HAVE SEX ONES!

OH.

AH-HA-HA. SORRY.

FOR *NORMAL* HUMANS...

THAT SUCKS.

AWWW, SERIOUSLY?

Oh, this isn't for sale.

...IT'S A BIT TEMPERAMENTAL.

THERE ARE STILL SPIDERS SHOWING UP.

ZUUU (SLURP)

WELL, THERE WERE A FEW HUNDRED MILLION OF THEM.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL SOME WOULD BE MUTANTS THAT COULD SURVIVE AFTER LOSING THEIR LINK TO THE QUEEN.

HAGU (MUNCH)

はぐ

SO ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR US TO HUNT THEM DOWN—

KA-KA-KA-

JAOKA LOPE

THAT BELL MEANS IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO OUR *REAL BUSINESS*.

BLACK DEMON

KEEP

—OHH, SORRY.

TIME TO CLOSE UP SHOP.

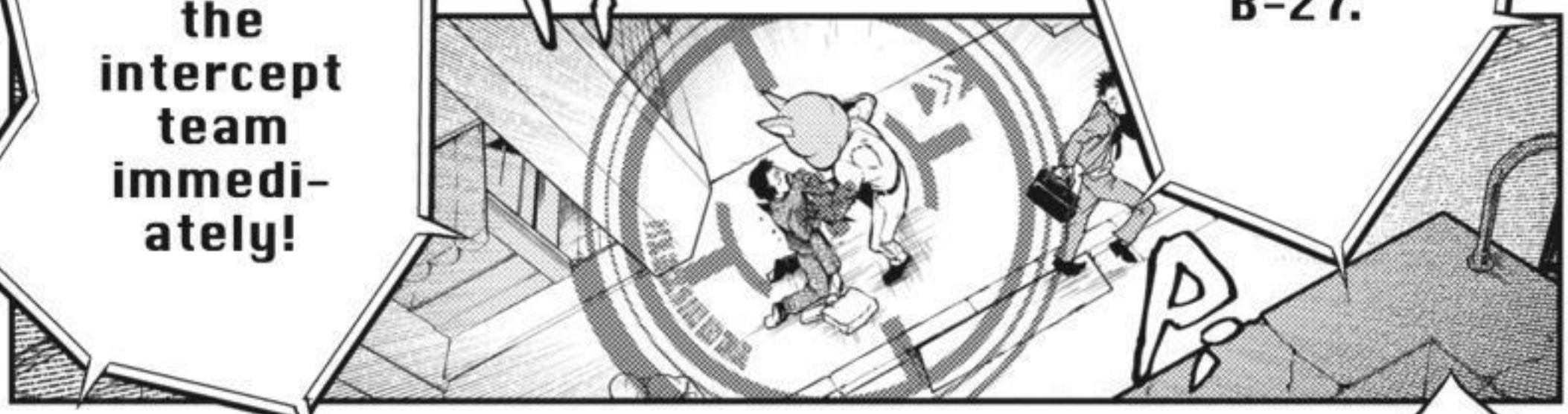
WHAT'S GOING ON?

GATAN (CLATTER)

OH, NOTHING.

KEEP


無限寿司
鮮魚市
益々福歯科
ゴ・マゾウ
Rain today
Rain yesterday
沙雲飯店
What to eat for lunch
Sunakaya Matsuya Kentucky
中大薬房
Dispatch the intercept team immedi-ately!
Spider confirmed in sector B-27.
P!
P!


WAAH!
EEEK...!
AAAH!

空不動産
土地売買・代行・貸貸
98-56-1874
GAAN CTHWAMD
HEE!!
HYU CFWISHD HYU
?
?

"LET THE
UNRUSTING
GEARS
TURN.

"RED SNOW SPREADS AROUND US.

"WE ARE LIKE SNOWFLAKES, EACH WITH A DIFFERENT FORM.

delicious food and
GYA
GYA
GYA
GYA
GYA
GYA

BAA (WHOOSH)

"WE ARE BOLD BOLT!!

BARII (CRACKLE)

GAAH!

AH!

!

RUBBLE ICE

RUBBLE ICE

ICE

B-ICB

Pi

888

Pi

666 CQB engag

"EVEN WITH OUR IRON LEFT ARM GONE...

GASHA (KA-CHAK)

"...THE JACKALOPES WILL CRUSH YOU WITH FAMILY RULES.

RUBBLE ICE

RUBBLE ICE

GA (BLAM)

GA

GA

JUKU (PLOP)

HAH!

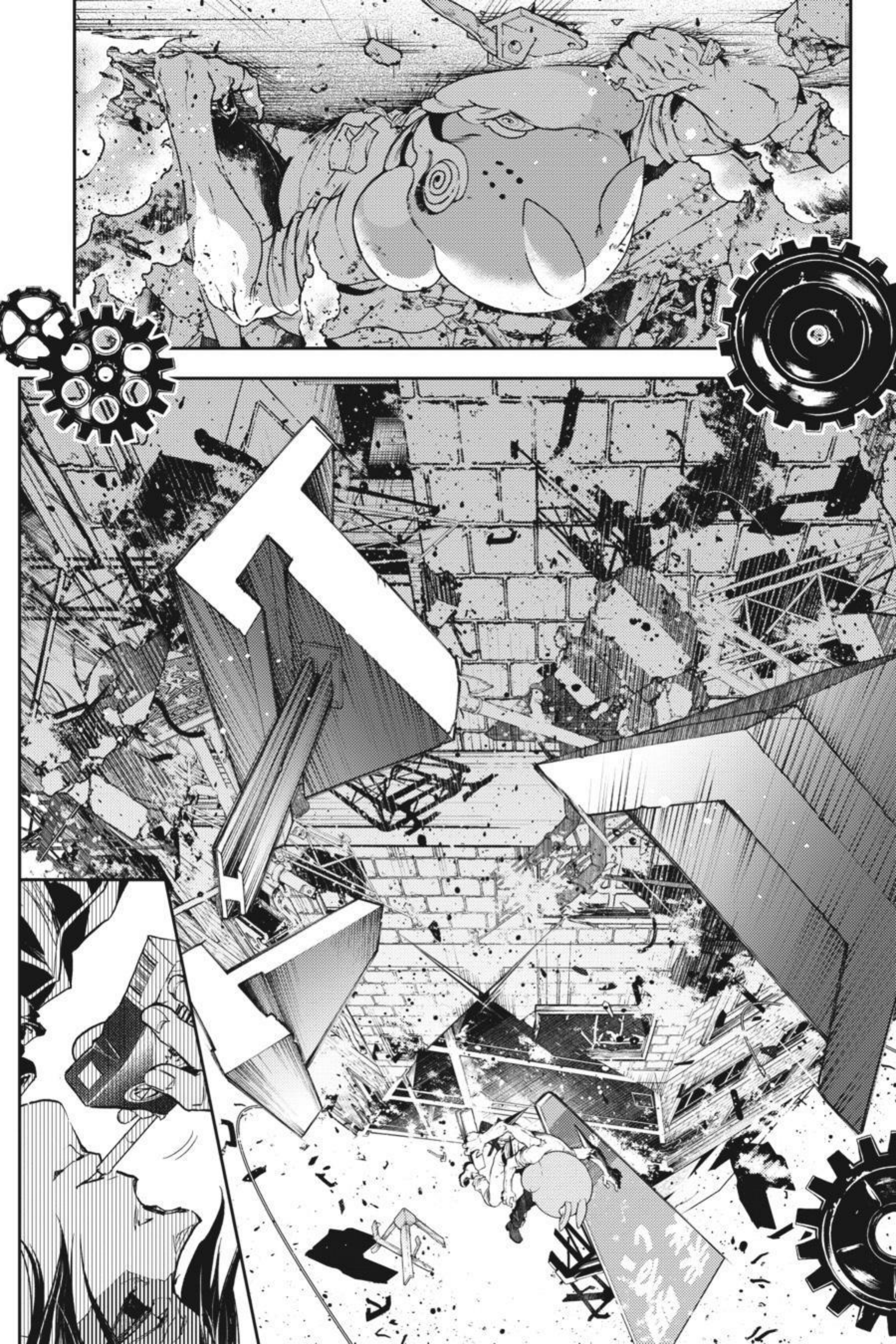
KAN (CLANG)

KAN

HAH!

我山商店

SIGN: ABRIGHT FUTURE



"BLOW AWAY THE SMOKE OF BLOOD WITH NINETY-SEVEN-DEGREE STEAM."

ZAN (THUD)

!

HELLO AND GOOD-BYE, FUCKING SPIDER.

AFTER ALL—

HA!

IT'S A DEMONIC JACKALOPE PARADE.

SMOKIN' PARADE

END

SMOKIN' PARADE

CHARACTERS


北方資料

SMOKIN' PARADE #10

By Jinsei Kataoka, Kazuma Kondou

Translation: Leighann Harvey
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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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